

BLUFF POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 30, 2014
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE
HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE

The Hanging of the Greens is a service for the first Sunday in Advent. It is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary and church members for the season.

WELCOME AND GREETING ORGAN PRELUDE

*SONG OF PRAISE - #2088 *"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"*

*CALL TO WORSHIP –

L.How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

P.With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

L.How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

P.With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

L.How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

P.With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

L.How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

P.By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

L.For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God .We are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation.

P.Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATION PRAYER: Our Father, we long for the simple beauty of Christmas – for all the old familiar melodies, words, and symbols that remind us of that great miracle when He who had made all things came one night as a babe, to lie in the crook of a woman's arm. But in that longing, let us even more yearn for your renewed presence among us even as we celebrate and expect the Coming of your Son. And we do pray, Lord Jesus, that as we begin this four-week journey of expectation and hope, we may do it in a manner well pleasing to You. May we remember Your birth and feel Your presence among us even yet. May the loving kindness of this Advent Season and the true Spirit of Christmas

not only creep into our hearts this season, but there abide. May the joy and spirit of Christmas remain with us now and forever. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHOIR ANTHEM – *"Is Your Heart Prepared For a King"*

CHILDREN'S TIME – The legend of the Poinsettia

SOLO – *"Breathe of Heaven"* – Aimee Perry

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

DUET – "The Wonder of It All" Dick Worden and Pastor Judy

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLORS (paraments)

(place paraments on the communion table, pulpit and lectern)

MEN'S CHORUS – *"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 60:2-3

(Communion table and altar candles are lit)

ADVENT WREATH – FIRST CANDLE IS LIT

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, We open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ.

CHOIR – "Advent Carol of Hope"

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING (cedar)

SCRIPTURE READING – Jeremiah 23: 5-6

(place cedar branch on the altar)

ORGAN SOLO – "Joy To the World" – Charles Findley

THE PROPHET DECLARES A CHILD WILL BE BORN (evergreens)

SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

(hang wreaths)

HYMN – #2100 *"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" vs.1 and 2*

SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 53:1-6 (Holy)
(place holly sprigs on the communion table)
DUET – “If That Isn’t Love” – Dick Worden and Pastor Judy

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION(Christmas Tree)
SCRIPTURE READING – John 1: 1-5, 9-14
(Please come forward and place ornaments on tree
And light Christmas tree, organ, piano)

HYMN – “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” vs. 4 and 5

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE – Unison
Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and inclusivity lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus’ name. Amen

NATIVITY SCENE
(children assemble the nativity)
HYMN – #217 “Away In the Manger” vs.1

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER
OFFERING/DOXOLOGY
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING
L. Take time, in the busyness of the season, for quiet reflection- for the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.
P. We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.
L. The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.
P. We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.

POSTLUDE – Ron Miller, pianist
We are so grateful to all those who participated in our “Hanging of the Greens” service. **Please join us in fellowship hall for Turkey and biscuit lunch prepared by John Prinziwalli.** Thank you all.

BLUFF POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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“THE LITTLE COUNTRY
CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART”

FAITH AND LOVE....IT’S WHO WE ARE...IT’S WHAT WE DO



SERVING CHRIST THIS WEEK:

Pianist – Ron Miller
Choir Director: Aimee Perry
Liturgist: Bill Sutherland
Greeters: Amos and Laura Hammond
Ushers: John and Laurie Prinzivalli
Scripture Reader: Barbara Bailey
Fellowship: Jim and Hope Enslow and John Prinzivalli
Sunday School: Children will help with service
Nursery: Phil Pearce and Breanna Summers
Counters: Aimee Perry and Dick Smith

SERVING NEXT WEEK: (12/6/15)

Organist: Elly Stempien
Choir Director: Aimee Perry
Liturgist: Ron Salyer
Greeters: Art Wunder and Jim Houle
Ushers: Gene and Marilyn James
Scripture Reader: Helen Schillinger
Fellowship: Marilyn Sands and Helen Schillinger
Sunday School: Sarah Stackhouse
Nursery: Sherie Hunt and Michele Covert
Counters: Elly Stempien and Bill Sutherland

THIS WEEK

Tues. Noon..Women’s Luncheon at Antique Inn. All women are invited to come share a meal with one another.
Wed. BIBLE STUDY at 10am . Chapter 18 “How Does Faith Help?”

DECEMBER EVENTS:

Dec. 6th – **Introduce our Stewardship Program**
Dec. 13th – **Covenant Service**
Senior Dinner at Elks Club. This is free but you must get your tickets at Office for the Aging soon. Serving at Noon and 1:30pm.
CHRISTMAS CAROLING, 3PM. Anyone is welcome to join us. We will visit the nursing homes and Keuka Comfort Home.
Dec. 20th – **CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**, a special worship for the children.
Dec. 24th – **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 7PM**

Dec. 27th – **PASTOR JUDY’S LAST SERVICE.** Art, Pastor Judy, MaryAnne and Joel will serve you brunch after the service.

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