

Hangíng of the Greens  
A Service of Advent  
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United Methodist Book of Worship®

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

**With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of eternal Christ?

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

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our savior?

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

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

**By hearing again the words of prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn, but that the world might be saved.

**Glory to God in the highest.**

God will send a righteous king...Jeremiah 23: 5-6

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We place the cedar branch as a sign of Christ who reigns forever.

The prophet declares a child will be born...Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Because the needles of pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hang this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle which itself has no end to signify the eternal reign of Jesus Christ.

The fourth servant song...Isaiah 53: 1-6

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus who saved us from our sins by his death on the cross and his resurrection. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ's passion. As we hang the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus our savior.

The mystery of incarnation...John 1: 1-5, 9-14

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the light of the world, we light this Christmas tree. During this advent, wherever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the one who brings light into darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

**Prayer – Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ, you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen**

*Chrismons (Christ monograms or symbols of Christianity)*

- 1) Gold – Majesty of King
- 2) White – God's holiness
- 3) Greenery – New life in Christ
- 4) Circle of Wreath – God's eternal nature

*Advent Season*

- 1) 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Prophecy and Hope
- 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Preparation and the Way
- 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Joy
- 4) 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Peace and Love
- 5) Christmas Eve – Christ ...the Christ candle of Light

## Chrismons & Advent

Chrismons are ornaments, generally handmade, that serve as symbols of faith. Each one is made to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ as our Savior in a special way.

Chrismons are generally made in white or gold or a combination of the two. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and suggests the holiness, innocence, purity, and perfection of the perfect lamb, Jesus Christ. Scripture often uses white to portray purity and equates it with light. Gold is a symbol of the glory and majesty of God and the Son of God. Some Chrismons have red to symbolize the blood of Christ or green to symbolize the tree of Jesse and new life in Christ. The circle of the wreath represents God's eternal nature.

### Symbolism

**Cross** – reminder of our Lord's saving work of redeeming mankind

**Sun of Righteousness** – symbol of the prophecy of Malachi who compared the Messiah to the sun, the brightest visible thing in the world

**Flames** – represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

**Fish** – ancient symbol for Christ. It was used as a secret sign during early Christianities persecution

**Butterfly** – symbolic of Lord's resurrection

**Descending Dove** – represents the Holy Spirit at the baptism of Christ

**Lamb** – scriptural symbol for Christ

**Scallop Shell with Three Teardrops** – represents the baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

**Lamp** – symbolizes knowledge and inspiration

**Book** – represents the written word...the Bible

**Shepherd's Crook** – represents the shepherds at the manger or Jesus being the Good Shepherd

**Trefoil or Triangle** – represents the triune of God

**Monogram – IHS** – represents the name of Christ in Greek

**Star** – represents the ways in which God comes to us. Also symbolic of Heaven and the leading of the wise men to Jesus.

**Angels** – represent the winged beings that God created to praise and serve Him.

**Crown** – represents the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ

**Evergreen Tree** – symbolizes eternal life

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: Prophecy and Hope*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Preparation and the Way*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Joy*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Peace and Love*

*Christmas Eve/Christmas: Christ the Light*