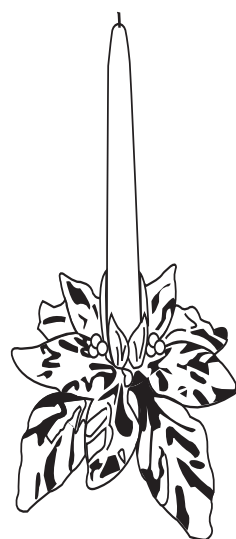
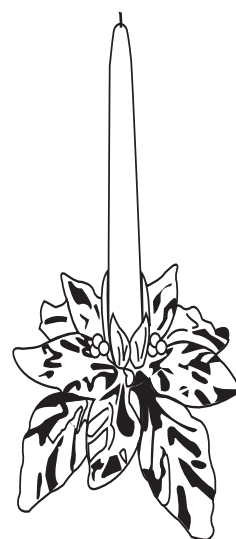




*Glendale City
Seventh-day
Adventist Church*

**The Hanging
of the
Greens**

November 26, 2005



The Service for the Hanging of the Greens

10:50 am – 12:10 pm

Prelude “Variations on ‘O Come All Ye Faithful’” *Dupre*

Welcome & Prayer Mitchell Henson

The Christmas season is rich with symbols. Today we pause to notice the symbols and reaffirm their meaning in our lives during the holiday season. Light, smell, touch, and sound are all part of this special experience. O taste and see that the Lord is good. Let us join in this adventure of worship.

Entering of the Light Tyler & Victoria McRae

Hymn “The Advent of Our God” No. 117
Please Stand.

Introit People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today;
Love, the Guest, is on the way. Victoria Lucero

Special Music “Domine Fili Unigenite” *A. Vivaldi*

The Prophecy

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 40: 1-5* Denise Kasischke

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice of one calling:
"In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Immanuel”
Please remain seated.

No. 115

The Advent Wreath

Explanation

Mitchell Henson

These wreaths have their origins in the folk traditions of northern Europe, where in the deep of winter, people lit candles on wheel-shaped bundles of evergreen. Both the evergreen and the circular shape symbolized ongoing life. The candlelight gave comfort at this darkest time of the year, as people looked forward to the longer days of spring. Later, Eastern European Christians adopted this practice. By the sixteenth century, they were making Advent wreaths much as we know them today.

An Advent wreath traditionally contains four candles—three purple and one rose. The purple dyes, long associated with royalty, honor Jesus. The three purple candles in the Advent wreath symbolize hope, peace, and love. These candles are lit on the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent. The rose candle, which symbolizes joy, is usually lit on the third week. Sometimes a fifth candle is placed inside the Advent wreath. This candle is lit on Christmas Day. It is white, the color associated with angels and the birth of Jesus.

Today we will light the first of the Advent candles—the prophet candle, representing hope for the coming Messiah.

The Prophet’s Candle

Scripture

Micah 5: 2

Denise Kasischke

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

Explanation

Mitchell Henson

This prophecy is one of eighty specific prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah. The accuracy of these prophecies is amazing. Consider this: Prophets predicted the birthplace of the Messiah; that John would precede the Messiah; that the Messiah would make a triumphant entry; that the Messiah would be betrayed. Prophets also predicted that he would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. They also prophesied of His denial and crucifixion with transgressors.

Phillip Stoner, a mathematician, calculated the likelihood of only eight of the eighty prophecies being fulfilled in one man. He calculated that the odds of these predictions, made hundreds of years before, coming true in Christ were 1 in 100 trillion. To illustrate the point, he said that if the state of Texas were covered by silver dollars, two feet deep, that would equal 100 trillion. If you were blindfolded and then picked one special silver dollar from the 100 trillion dollars, on the very first try, you would accomplish a comparable feat.

Today we light the first candle reminding us of the prophets who announced Christ’s coming.

Lighting of the First Candle

The Rabello Family

The Hanging of the Greens

Litany

Michael Quishenberry

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

People: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

People: With garlands of pine and fur, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

Leader: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

People: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

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

People: Glory to God in the highest!

The Cedar Branch

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 23: 5-6

Denise Kasischke

“The days are coming” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.”

Explanation

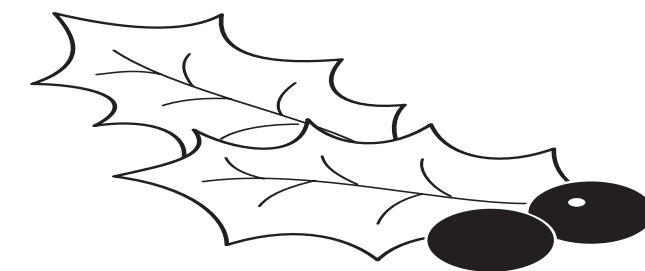
Mitchell Henson

In ancient times the cedar was referred to as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We place this branch in the sanctuary as the symbol of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

Choral Selection

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
Please Stand.

M. Praetorius



The Evergreen Wreath

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 & 7

Denise Kasischke

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

Explanation

Mitchell Henson

Because the needles of the pine and fir trees do not die each season like the leaves of most trees, the ancients saw them as symbols of things that last forever. In the scripture passage just read, the prophet Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah, and so we hang this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, which itself has no end, to signify the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Hymn

“Joy to the World”
Please Stand.

No. 125

The Mistletoe

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61: 1-3

Denise Kasischke

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion-
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

Explanation

Mitchell Henson

Because this is the passage that Jesus read at the beginning of his ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth and which He applied to Himself, we cannot hear these words of Isaiah without thinking of the healing that the coming of the Christ will bring. The evergreen most associated with healing properties in the ancient world was the mistletoe. It was called the "all-healer." People thought its special powers came from the lightning bolt that fixed it high up in a tree, and therefore, they believed it came, as did the lightning, from heaven itself. This healing power was not only for physical ailments, but for the healing of relationships as well. It is said that in one town in medieval England, a bough of mistletoe was brought in and put on the altar, and the priest then declared a pardon for all sins. Originally, the kiss under the mistletoe was thought to have been the "kiss of peace," symbolizing reconciliation, not the romantic kiss of a man and a woman. It is in keeping with this more ancient meaning that we decorate this house with mistletoe, in anticipation of the coming of the healing presence of Jesus the Christ.

Hymn

“Balm of Gilead”
Remain Seated.

No. 475

The Holly

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53: 1-6

Denise Kasischke

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
Like one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Explanation

Mitchell Henson

Tradition holds that this passage from Isaiah describes the suffering of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by His death on the cross and by rising from the dead. In ancient times, the holly was considered the symbol of Christ's passion; its prickly leaves suggested the crown of thorns, its red berries the blood of the Savior, and its bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we place the holly, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

Gifts of Song and Offering

Tithes & Offerings

Dr. Vincent Haynes

Offertory

“Laudamus Te”
Susan Mills, Joseph Mathieu, *duet*

A. Vivaldi

Christmas Cookies

Explanation

Mitchell Henson

Perhaps no homemade items are more abundant at this season of the year than Christmas cookies. They come in all colors, sizes, and shapes – from the cut-out Christmas tree cookies to the many-layered bar cookies. They are fun to make and even young children can become involved in helping with the stirring and decorating.

As you look at the final product from your kitchen, as the variety of cookies fills the platter, pause for a moment to reflect upon what that sight represents. All the objects, taken together, can be labeled “cookies.” Yet, each is unique in size and shape, and between groups of cookies there are a variety of flavors.

Perhaps this variety in creation is akin to what God has done with the human race. He has created each person uniquely. We are all different. We come in different sizes and colors. We are born with distinctive features and appearances. God’s mosaic is beautiful to behold.

This Christmas as you see the many different Christmas cookies remember that the baby Jesus was born for all people.

Children’s Time

Denise Kasischke

The Light

Scripture Reading

John 1: 1-5 & 9-14

Denise Kasischke

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Explanation

Mitchell Henson

As our final preparation for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, we will light the Christmas tree. And in this time of Advent, whenever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our broken lives, goodness and peace to all who will receive Him.

Hymn

“Now the Joyful Bells A-Ringing”
Please stand.

No. 23

Benediction

Denise Kasischke

Postlude

“Festival Toccata”

Fletcher

City Church Announcements

Share Your Memories. Throughout 2006 as a part of our Centennial Celebration, we invite individuals and families to share their pictures and mementos from their time at City Church in the display case located in the Narthex. This case will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up now! Contact Victoria at the church office.

Posada Candlelight Benefit Walk. The AIDS Service Center (ASC) will hold a benefit walk through historic Pasadena on December 3 at 5:00 p.m. The ASC provides services to families affected by HIV/AIDS. A minimum \$10.00 sponsorship is required. For more information please contact Cindy Estipona at 626/441-8495x164.

Holiday Bags. These are available in the Narthex after the worship service. We ask for a \$4.00 donation per bag. The bags are designed for infants through junior high and are great for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to use with children during Advent and the Christmas Holidays.

Poinsettias. If you would like to reserve a poinsettia, please mark the number you wish to reserve on a pew card. They are \$6.00 each. You may pick them up on December 24th after the worship service.

Rose Parade. The Glendale Pathfinders will again host guests in first class style at the Tournament of Roses Parade on New years Day. This very special day includes round trip transportation from Glendale, a hot gourmet breakfast on the parade route and seats very close to the beginning of the parade. Departure time is 6:15 a. m. Seating is limited. For more information please contact the church office.

Christmas Hymn Sabbath. Our Christmas Hymn Sabbath is approaching. Please give us the number of your favorite Christmas hymn. If it is not in the hymnal please provide us with a copy. All requests must be in by December 19th.

Petting Zoo. Plan on visiting our petting zoo on December 24. It's a great opportunity to bring your neighbors and friends to church.

Upcoming Sermons

December 3	“Faithfulness”	Mitchell Henson
December 10	"Gentleness”	Michael Quishenberry

Mark Your Calendar

Today	Elder of the Day Dr. Vincent Haynes
December 2	Christmas Choir Concert
December 23	Hymn Sabbath & Petting Zoo
January 27	Glendale City Church turns 100 Years Old! Christian Edition Concert
January 28	Special Guest Speaker: Gordon Bietz

Sunset Tonight – 4:44 p.m. Sunset next Friday – 4:43 p.m.