

Hanging of the Greens NOVEMBER 30TH 2025

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Advent 2025 at
Castle Rock First United
Methodist Church

Welcome To Worship at Castle Rock First United Methodist Church

Today we enter a sacred rhythm that Christians have practiced for centuries—the Hanging of the Greens. Though our sanctuary is already beautifully prepared, the images you see on the screen invite us to reflect on the meaning behind each symbol that adorns this space. This tradition, passed from generation to generation, teaches us that every evergreen, wreath, light, and Chrismon declares the story of God's enduring love.

As we begin our Advent journey with the theme From Generation to Generation, we remember that we are woven into a lineage of believers who prepared their hearts just as we do now—by creating space for hope to take root. These shared images remind us that we stand in the long, unfolding story of God's faithfulness, carried by those who came before us and entrusted to those who will come after. May what we see today draw us deeper into the mystery and wonder of Emmanuel—God with us.

**Connect with us through our QR Code
or our website: www.fumccr.org**



Prelude Music

Welcome

Pastor Matt Franks

Greeting Time

+Hymn: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

UMH 196

Call to Worship

Rev. Sarah Steidtmann

Liturgist: How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

All: With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

Liturgist: How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

All: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, evergreen.

Liturgist: How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

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

Liturgist: How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

All: By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

Liturgist: Today we wait with Hope for the light of Christ to shine in the dark places of lives and memories.

We wait in Hope for God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all creation to be born again in Bethlehem.

Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Sarah Steidtmann

All: We believe in a God

**who promised to Abraham,
who wrestled with Jacob,
who walked with Ruth,
who spoke with Moses,
who grieved with Bathsheba,
who danced with David,
who dreamed with Joseph,
and who hoped like Mary.**

We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us from generation to generation. And we believe that same God is here with us now, saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here." Amen.

The Meaning of Hanging of the Greens

Various Readers

Introduction To The "Hanging of the Greens" Pat Hammond

1. Evergreens Gail Hammond

2. Wreaths John Tamborski

3. Holly and Ivy Pat Hammond

4. The Advent Candles and Wreath Gail Hammond

5. The Chrismon Tree John Tamborski

6. Poinsettias Pat Hammond

Spiritual Preparation Maryalice McHugh

Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel vs 1&4

UMH 211

Blessing of The Chrismon Tree

Rev. Sarah Steidtmann

All: Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. 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. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Various Readers

Opportunities for Linking into CRFUMC

Pastor Matt Franks

Thank you for Giving

Julie Bailey

Leader: Thank you for your gifts that make room for every story. Through your generosity, our church continues to create a space where God's love is known, shared, and lived out in our community.

Prayer For The Offering

Julie Bailey

All: God of every generation, you make room for each of our stories within your own. As we bring these gifts, we offer more than money— we offer our hopes, our time, and our hearts. Use them to make space where all are welcomed, and where your love takes root and grows. Amen.

Offering

Music from John Redmon

Guiding Meditation

Pastor Matt Franks

Poetry Reading Video

"Room"

Read by Julie Bailey

by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Hymn of Sending

All The Earth Is Waiting vs. 1&2

UMH 210

+Benediction

Rev. Sarah Steidtmann

Leader: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon." May it be so. Amen.