Hanging of the Greens

Logan Memorial Presbyterian Church
White Horse Pike and Merchant Street
Audubon, NJ 08106

Phone: (856) 547-5571 *e-mail: Loganpreschurch@gmail.com*

website: www.Loganpres.com *Like us on Facebook*

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November 29, 2026 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prayer cards are located in the pews. If you have a prayer request, fill out the card and pass it to the center aisle. It will be collected during the announcements.

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude: "Hodie" Benjamin Britten

Reading: Luke 21:25-36 Reverend Keith Schmitt

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 6-7, 11:1-3 Ken Cashmnan

The prophet announces the coming of the Messiah to the Jews in exile.

Anthem: "A Shoot Shall Come Forth" Richard Horn

First Narrator Eric Geissler

The angel comes to Zechariah with the promise of a son. Zechariah doubts the angelic announcement and as a result must wait without words for the promise to be fulfilled. The word "angel" means "messenger." Just as the green of nature promises life beyond the frozen winter, God sends us messengers of hope and promise in each of our lives. May we open our hearts and lives to God's angels this Advent.

Second Reading: Luke 1:8-20 Ruth Gamble

The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah and announces that his wife will bear John the Baptist. (The angel is placed)

***Hymn:** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #135

Third Reading: Luke 1: 26-33 Corinne Latini

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear the Messiah

Second Narrator Elmer Leslie

Like the never-dying evergreen, God's love for us will last forever. The wreaths are shaped into a circle to signify the never-ending reign of the Messiah. The wreath also signifies the crown- both a sign of the kingship of Jesus and a reminder that for his love of us, he wore a crown of thorns.

The Wreaths
(The wreaths are hung) Al Harris, Gary Knoettner

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-3 Gladys Miller

The prophet tells the healing power of the Anointed One

Third Narrator Mike Smith

We cannot hear these words of Isaiah without thinking of the healing that the coming of Christ will bring. The evergreen most associated with healing in the ancient world was the mistletoe, at one time known as "all-heal." Today it is remembered as the plant of peace. For when enemies happened to meet under the mistletoe in the forest, they threw down their arms and exchanged friendly greeting. It is in keeping with this meaning that we decorate this place of worship with mistletoe, in anticipation of the coming of the presence of the Prince of Peace.

Mistletoe is hung Chris & Dianne Geissler

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #133

Fourth Narrator Grace Murray

Along with mistletoe, holly adorns our churches because, unlike most plants, it bears its fruit in winter. Holly has become a symbol of Christ's Passion, with its prickly leaves representing the crown of thorns, the berries representing the blood he shed for us, and the bitter bark representing the drink he was offered on the cross.

Holly is placed Ida Koen, Betsy O'Hara

Hymn: "The Holly and the Ivy"

The holly and the ivy, when they were both full grown,
Of all the trees within the wood, the holly bears the crown.

(Refrain) O, the rising of the sun, the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing of the choir.

The holly bears a blossom, as white as any flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our dear Savior. (Refrain)

The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good. (Refrain)

Fifth Narrator Sandy Bowen

In ancient times, the cedar was known as the tree of royalty. Today we often use cedar, along with other greens- pine, fir, spruce, juniper, and rosemary- which we prize for their fragrance, as well as their symbolism of our hope and expectation and hope of the coming of the Christ Child again. As we light our tree, we remember that Christ is ever-present, and that he is the "Tree of Life." The lights on our tree remind us that this day Christ Child came to earth as the "Light of the World."

Tree is lit

Hymn: "O Christmas Tree"

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!
So green when summer breezes blow,
Still green amid the winter snow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!

Offering

Offertory: "Allegretto" Gustav Holst

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication** #809

Fifth Reading: John 1: 1-5 Julie Spositi

John relates to us the coming of the true Light

Sixth Narrator Reverend Keith Schmitt

The Advent season is essentially one of light. Candles are lighted throughout the season to remind us that Jesus is "the Light of the World." Windows in homes and churches alike are decorated with candles that burn each night. This is a very old custom that sprang from the belief that the lighted window would guide the Christ Child through the darkness to the house.

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

The Murray Family

***Closing Hymn:** "Break Forth O Beauteous" #158

***Benediction:** "O Come Let Us Adore Him"
O Come, Let Us Adore Him
O Come, Let Us Adore Him
O Come, Let Us Adore Him
Christ, the Lord

***Postlude:** "Good Christian Men Rejoice" Gustav Holst

**please stand if able*

The Church Staff:
Reverend Keith Schmitt, Ph.D., Interim Pastor
William Braun, Music Director
Lisa Hanson, Treasurer
Lesley Echols, Secretary
Mark Hall, Sexton

This Week in Our Church:

Sunday:	Worship	11:00 a.m.
	AA (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
Monday:	AA (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday:	Thrift Store Workers	9:00 a.m. – noon
	AA (Fellowship Hall)	8:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	AA (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
Thursday:	AA (Fellowship Hall)	5:30 p.m.
	AA (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
Friday:	AA (Fellowship Hall)	5:30 p.m.
	AA (Fellowship Hall)	8:00 p.m.
Saturday	Thrift Store	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

Holy Cow Survey

In order for us to begin the process of organizing a Pastor Nominating Committee, we are required to conduct a survey of the congregation which will help gauge the current health of our congregation and identify where to focus in the future. The survey will also help us determine what kind of qualities we would hope to find in our new pastor.

The survey can either be completed on-line, or by paper survey. To complete the survey by computer, please use this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LOGANMPCNJ

If you want a paper copy to complete the survey, please stop by the church office. All congregants are asked to complete a copy. For instance, if there are four members in your family, then all four should complete the survey. All responses remain anonymous. If using a paper copy, please drop it off at the church office, or place it in Al Murray's mail box located just outside the office.

WELCOME! We welcome you to our church in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are visiting, please sign the guest register in the narthex or place a pew card in the offering plate.

Children are welcome in this congregation. **A nursery for those ages six and younger is available, but not staffed, during the worship hour, if your child needs a place to "let off steam." Activity bags (in back of church) are available for other children who stay for services. Please be considerate of other worshipers if your child should become agitated, by stepping outside the sanctuary until the child is calm.**

THE SERMON can be found in the literature rack in the family life center most Sundays. A few people have copies emailed to them the following week. If you would like one or like to be added to the list, contact the church office.

FLOWERS:
Placed by the Deacons for the Hanging of the Greens

PRAYER REQUESTS:
Marge – broken hip
Schofied Family – house fire

Shout out to all who helped decorate the sanctuary/church last Sunday - **Many Thanks**

The nominating committee still needs 1 person for Deacons and 1 person for Session to have a full slate. Please prayerfully consider using your talents to serve on one of these boards.

Sign up sheet for Petpals is in the Family Life Center. All donations are due by 12/20 however it would be ideal to have them in by 12/13. If you do not feel like shopping, Mike Smith can do so with your monetary donation. As always, thank you for generosity and kindness.