



Make This
Place
Glad

The
Hanging
of the
Greens

Worship Kit

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About the Service

Seven brief homilies—each accompanied by a Scripture verse from Isaiah and a specially-written hymn stanza—serve as the outline for this “hanging of the greens” service, beginning with the undecorated church and the Advent wreath, then drawing lessons from the colors of Advent and Christmas, and finally the crèche. The service is designed so that various parts of the decorating may be done during the worship or the service may take place before or after the actual decorating.

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Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- **An Advent Gathering** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Wie Soll Ich Dich Empfangen* 76 76 D, interspersed by words from Isaiah 2, 11 and 62 spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight.
Oh, kindle, precious Savior, your lamp within my breast,
That all my glad behavior may show how I've been blest.

Your Zion strews before you green boughs and fairest palms;
And I, too, will adore you with joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever for you with praises new
And from your name shall never withhold the honor due.

- ☞ In the days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be exalted, and all the nations shall stream to it.

☞ **Let us make this place glad!**

Ⓟ Many people shall come and say, “Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob.”

Ⓒ **Let us make this place glad!**

Ⓟ A shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots, and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him..

Ⓒ **Let us make this place glad!**

Ⓟ As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Rejoice, O congregation; the Lord is drawing near,
The advent of salvation—let signs of joy appear!
The Lord, to earth descending, will soon reveal his face
To grant us life unending. With joy make glad this place.

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ You make this place glad by your presence here with us, O Lord. Fill us with joy as we decorate this space to welcome your arrival at Christmas. May our hearts rejoice as we prepare ourselves for your coming. May we in word and deed happily proclaim the good news of your birth to those around us, and may our lives be decorated with your peace, love and hope this season and always. Amen.

- **In the Beginning** takes place with Isaiah 64:8 read by the pastor, the hymn verse sung to the tune Chesterfield CM and the pastor delivering a short homily:

*(Before the first reading, the organ might introduce the section
with the first four notes of the tune Chesterfield.)*

Ⓟ In the beginning ... O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Make this place glad, this holy place
Where God’s high praise is told.
The season’s hues proclaim his grace
As signs of grace unfold.

Ⓟ Before we “make this place glad” with our decorations—which is the purpose of this service—it might be in order to begin “in the beginning”—BEFORE the decorating takes place. Take a moment to look at the church, as it is right now. We see it all the time, of course, to the point where we may just find ourselves taking it for granted. But, just as it is, our church

Tune..... Wie Soll Ich Dich Empfänger 76 76 D

The image displays a musical score for the song 'Wie Soll Ich Dich Empfänger' in D major (two sharps) and 7/6 time. The score is organized into three systems, each consisting of a treble and bass staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note pulse in the bass line and a more varied melody in the treble. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid across the middle of the page.

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- P** In the days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be exalted, and all the nations shall stream to it.

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- P** Many people shall come and say, "Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob."

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- P** As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Rejoice, O congregation; the Lord is drawing near,
The advent of salvation—let signs of joy appear!
The Lord, to earth descending, will soon reveal his face
To grant us life unending. With joy make glad this place.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Deck the Hall:

Hark, the herald's voice entreating,
"In the wilderness, the way prepare!"
To all faithful souls repeating,
"In each heart and home, the way prepare!"
At the sign of preparation
Boughs of green now are seen ev'rywhere,
Welcoming such glad salvation:
"In this holy house, the way prepare!"

Let the desert bloom, rejoicing:
In the wilderness, the way prepare.
Share the joy, your praises voicing:
In each heart and home, the way prepare.
For the Savior, long-awaited,
Boughs of green now are seen ev'rywhere.
Be his advent celebrated:
In this holy house, the way prepare!