

December 1, 2002

Hey Kids!

What are some special times that you wait for and prepare for? Maybe your birthday? Or the birth of a brother or sister? The beginning or ending of the school year? Or going on a vacation?



As Christians, we wait for and prepare to celebrate Christmas – the birth of Christ. The days between now and Christmas are called Advent. Usually, with the beginning of Advent, we decorate the church. Decorating the church is often called “Hanging of the Greens.”

Here are some of the holiday symbols you may see decorating your sanctuary now, or in the coming weeks:

- Evergreens – always green, always alive, represent everlasting life and God’s eternal love for us.
- Poinsettia – a red flower with 5 points represents the Star of Bethlehem. Also known as “Flower of the Holy Night.”
- Advent Wreath – evergreens in a circle, reminds us that God loves us always – there is no beginning or no end to His love.
- Candles – represent the light of God coming into the world.
- Nativity or crèche – a reminder of Jesus’ birth in humble surroundings.

Special colors you might notice are **blue** or **purple**. These colors represent royalty and the coming of Christ as King.

Pray

Dear God,

We are preparing for the coming of Christ’s birth. Help us open our hearts to the hope, love, and joy of this wonderful Advent season.

Amen.



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Advent Activities

Look around your sanctuary.
What Advent decorations do you see? Write them here.

Circle the decorations you listed that your family will use to decorate your home.

Hanging of the Greens Word Search

A P T V S T H M Q L S N E E R G R E V E
X I Y S W H E C T X T N K V Z E S N O L
B G T K I E P O H U L T I A O Y A P X B
T O C T S R O I Y A R D Y G S L M Y W Q
L N X L E L H W R E G N A M H N T Z R Y
U C L W P S R C B B E K C U O T S P Q D
D E I H E E N H O L L Y R I T H I P T B
B W X G A O R I V R D A M X Z S R P D Q
V P O T T T A I O O N D M O L Y H V G H
C U H U M O P P O P A F H Y I M C V H T
K R W Y R D M A Z T C X B A J M L V G W
M P L M L I N P B R B Y S T A Z P S G X
K L V B R W I R G A T W D R L V W G A L
Y E L K R R C T O I O K Z E H Y P M E J
P U D O M U F V V Y L P Y E O P R R X J
E Q D H Y Z E I G D A I Q J Y R Q S F D
C E P A P N T C A G O L H Z L C E C P G
E D T G X A A B T M J K T Z O N W A E F
F W F T N P R E P A R E A Y H J T W P D
J U U U Y N H Q T G Z F H E U C T O O F

BELLS
CHRIST
HOLLY
JOY
NATIVITY
PREPARE
TREE

BLUE
CHRISTMAS
HOLY
LOVE
NIGHT
PURPLE
WREATH

CANDLE
EVERGREENS
HOPE
MANGER
POINSETTIA
ROYALTY