



25 Main Street, P.O. Box 61, Grand Bend, Ontario N0M 1T0 * (519) 238-2402
huronshoresunitedchurch@gmail.com * www.huronshoresunitedchurch.com

16 December, 2020

The Hanging of the Greens

"My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2

Friends,

Are you decorating? I am decorating! I have found my several nativity sets and placed them around the house. And I have strung lights outside to show the neighbours what a light shining in the darkness looks like. I even have a real tree – although nothing on it just yet. Me and the tree hang out together in the evenings.

When I lived in Nova Scotia, I was asked by one of my tiny church communities to lead their traditional Hanging of the Greens service. Traditional to them... but not to me! I had never heard of it. But I said, "Sure!" What's a minister to do?

Using borrowed material and community memories, I created a service that blessed each decoration that we put up. There was a prayer for a garland. And a prayer for the wreath. A prayer for the candles and a prayer for a tree. It is probably a Celtic tradition, now that I think about it – those lovely people of the Hebrides who see God's Spirit in each brook, rock and hill.

Maybe you would like to be a little Celtic this Christmas. As you hang up your decorations – say a little prayer. Let each beautiful thing be a reason to pray – and a source of blessing both for you and for the world.

Here – I'll get you started:

Prayer for A Christmas Tree

Loving God,
May this green tree remind us
Of the life that is everlasting.
May its boughs offer shelter to the weary.
May its cones offer food the hungry.
And may its trunk bear witness to that other tree
On Calvary's hill,
That set our spirits free. *Amen.*

Grace to you and peace,

Kate

huronshoresminister@gmail.com

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

