

X = DMC 367

@ = DMC 304

= DMC 3821

3 = DMC 3347

Fabric: Whatever you'd like!

Chart Size: 78 x 48

I've always loved the song "The Holly and the Ivy" but have never resonated with the Christian symbolism of what the holly and ivy represent. So I was intrigued to learn that this song has its roots in pagan history.

From an article by the Financial Times: The Christian elements of the carol might have been grafted on to a very different version, and in fact the song had its roots deep in the pagan past. The clue to its antiquity is in the lines that say: "Of all the trees that are in the wood/ the holly bears the crown". This is thought to be a reference to the Druidical figure of the Holly King, the lord of the winter wildwood. In the deciduous forests of medieval Britain, three green plants shone through the bare winter branches: the holly, the ivy and the mistletoe. Greenness in midwinter was cherished for its symbolic value, of course: the assurance that spring would come. Long before the Victorian custom of the Christmas tree took hold of the collective imagination, those three plants were the standard winter decorations for both houses and churches and the holly, with its glossy brilliant green and its brash red berries, was the brightest and best of all, the triumphant harbinger of continuing life.

The Holly Bears

the Crown

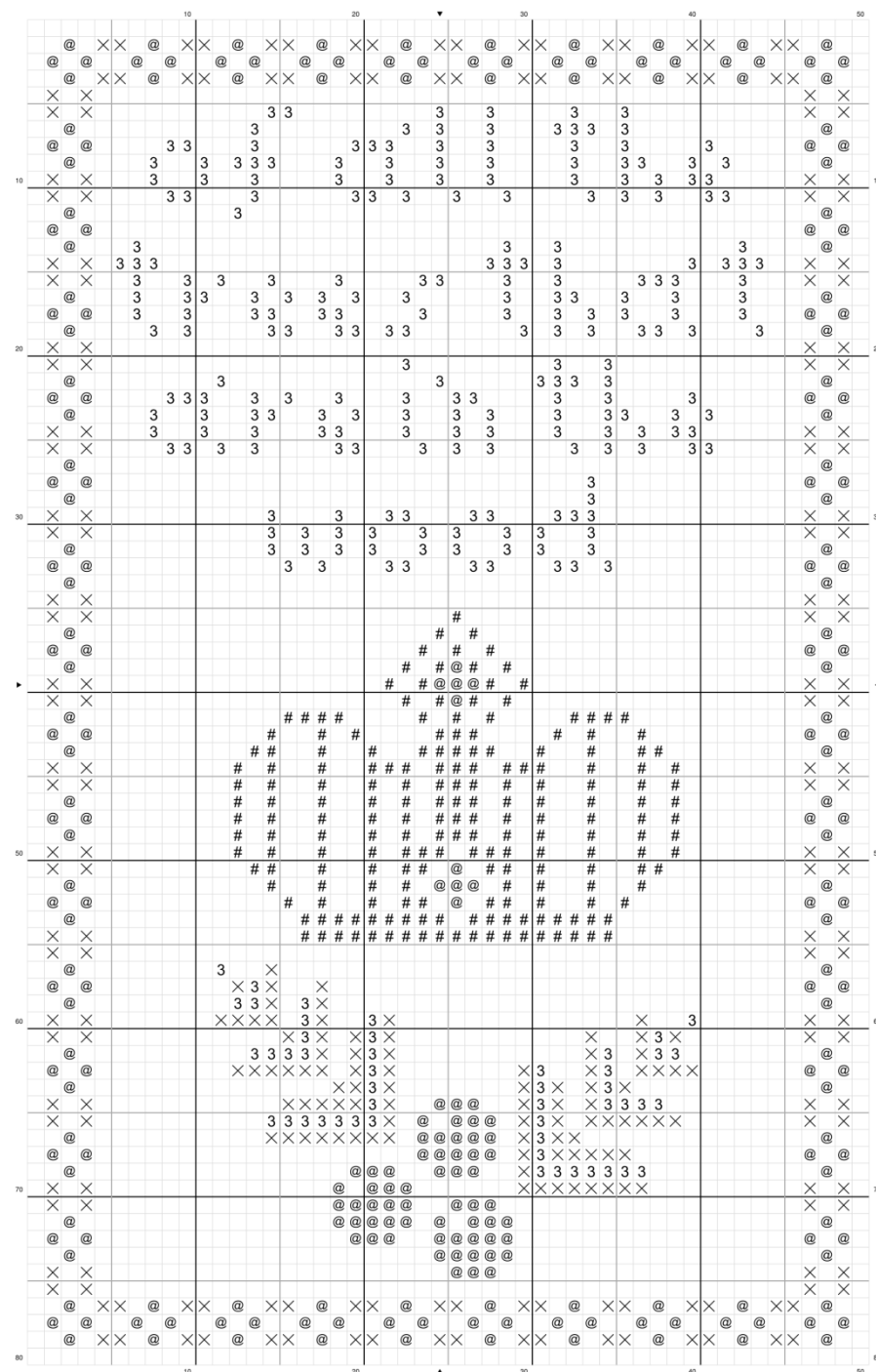


Regardless of how you spend this winter season I hope you enjoy stitching up this freebie from me as a thank you for all your wonderful and continued support this year. It's been a difficult one for many reasons but you all have brought me so much comfort and support. I truly appreciate you and I can't wait to share all of my new and exciting plans for 2023!

Lots of love,

Deanna W.

Darling & Whimsy Designs



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