

The Seventh Day of Christmas
Dec 31, 2023
9:00am



Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon
541-345-0395
www.welcometocentral.org

Each year as the sun sets on Christmas Eve and Advent comes to a close, **Christmas—the Season of the Nativity of our Lord**—commences for Christians who observe the liturgical calendar. **Christmas** culminates in **Epiphany** twelve days later (hence the popular secular carol: *The Twelve Days of Christmas*). The Day of **Epiphany** on January 6th concludes the cycle, commemorating the visit to the Christ Child by the Magi (Three Kings) from the East.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

Où s'en vont cei gais bergers

Claude Balbastre

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand as you're able)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and you call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful joy - ful and tri-umph-ant! O come ye, O come
2 See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his crad - le, leav - ing their flocks, draw
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex-ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye cit - i -
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je - sus, to thee



ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels.
nigh with low - ly fear; We too will al - so bend our joy - ful foot - steps.
zens of hea - ven a - bove! Glo - ry to God in the high - est:
be glo - ry giv'n! Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CANDLES

CHRISTMAS GREETING

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all. **And also with you.**

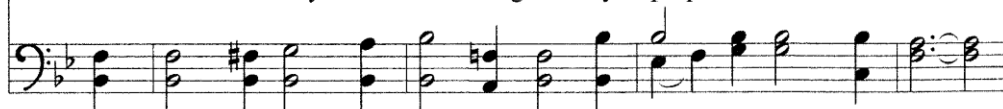
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, **you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (please be seated)**

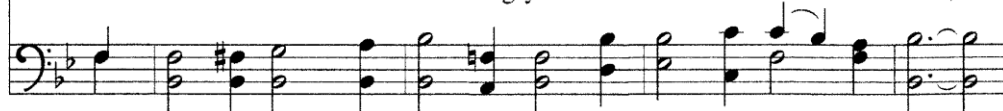
CAROL #282 It Came upon the Midnight Clear Stanza 3 Solo



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



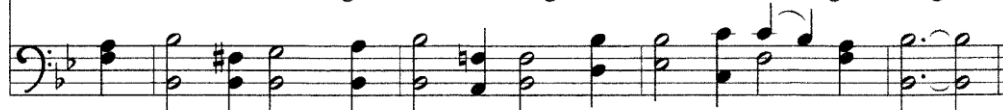
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:10—62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148

Cantors

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
²Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
⁴Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,
⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.
⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
¹²young men and maidens, old and young together.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven. ¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

CAROL #276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

SECOND LESSON Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL #289 Angels We Have Heard on High (*stand for the 3rd stanza*)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then

as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

CAROL OF THE DAY #290 Go Tell It on the Mountain *(please stand)*

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



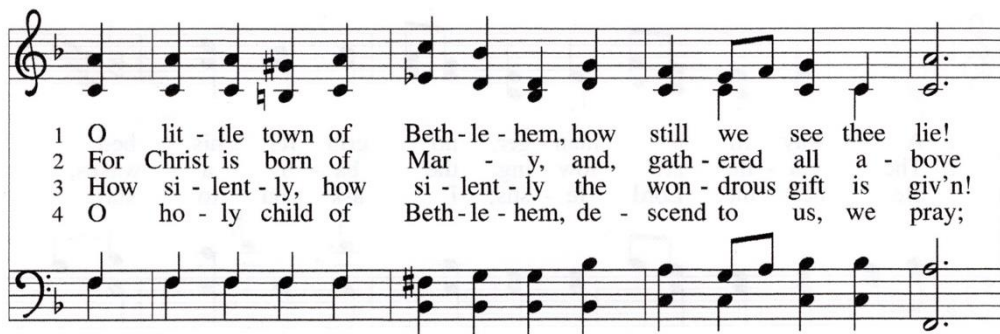
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(please be seated)*

PEACE

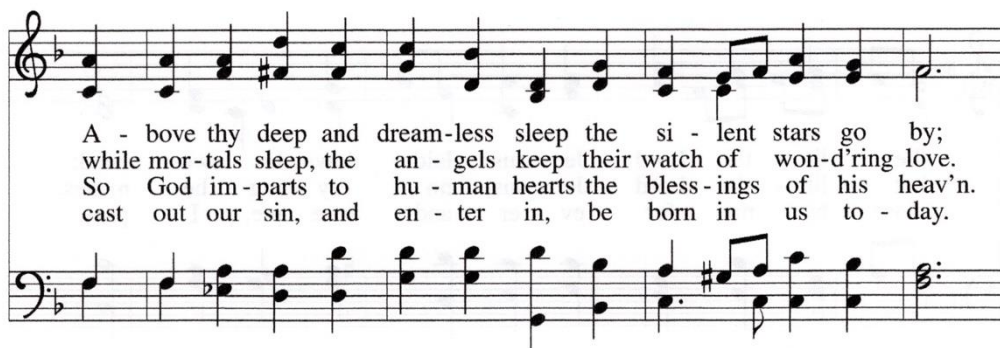
OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OFFERING

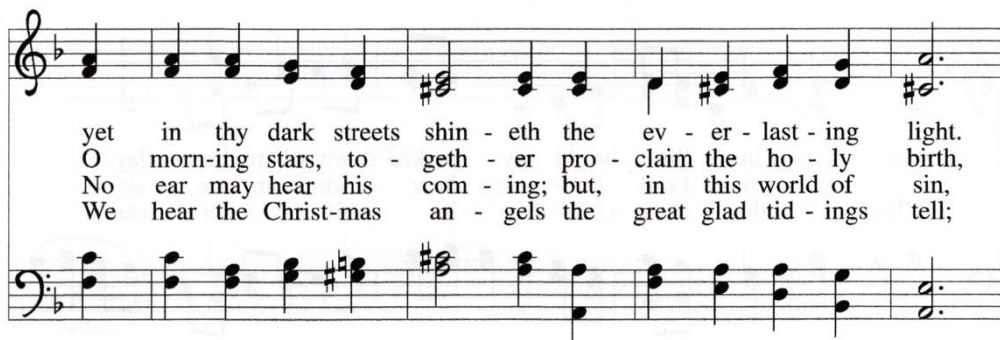
OFFERTORY CAROL #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem St 3. Solo



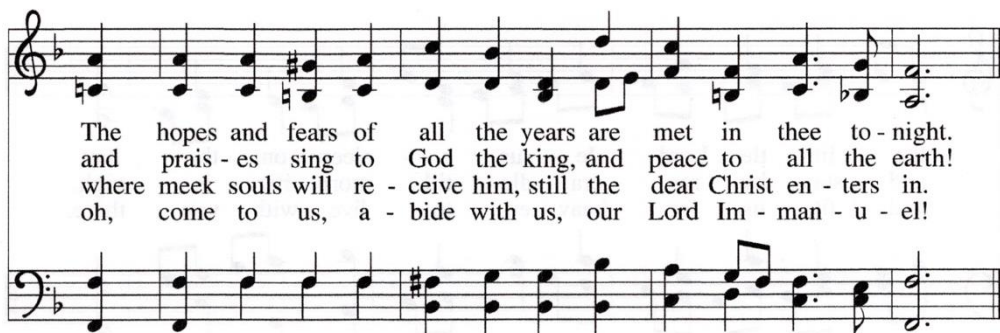
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

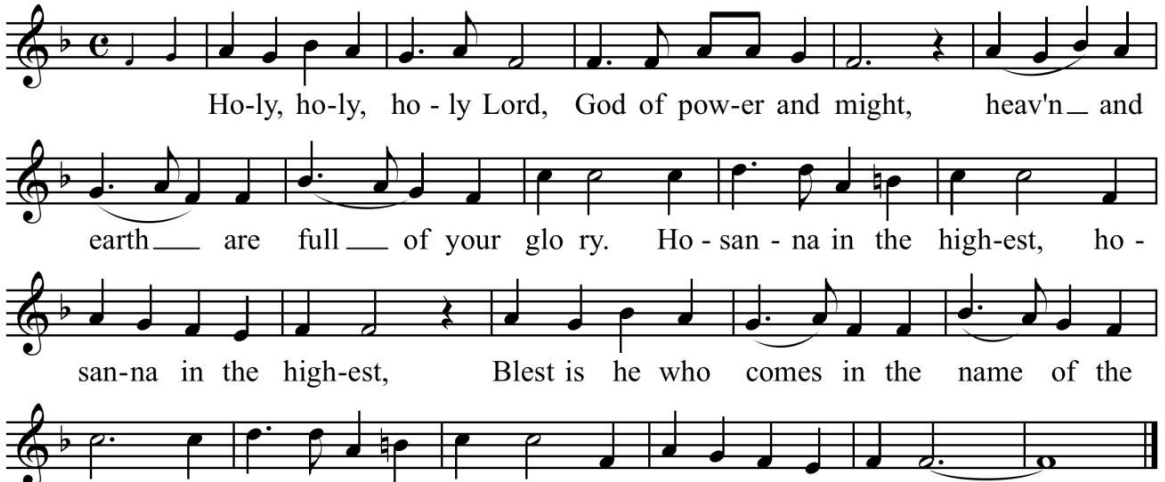


The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
And al - so with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n_ and
earth_ are full_ of your glo ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho -
san-na in the high-est, Blest is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est._____

Richard Proulx

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, and ever. Amen. (*please be seated*)

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION

*During communion distribution you are invited to join in singing:
"What Child Is This" ELW#296 and "Silent Night" ELW#281
from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, so send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us to shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

CAROL **Good King Wenceslas Looked Out** (*see next page*)

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God!

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *À la venue de Noël* Claude Balbastre

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Cantors: Naomi Castro and Dylan Buntten

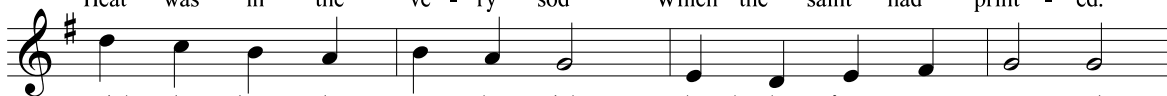
CAROL Good King Wenceslas Looked Out



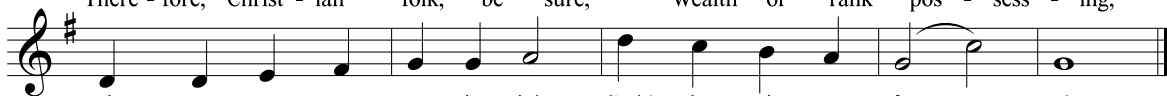
1 Good King Wen - ces - las looked out, On the Feast of Ste - phen**,
 2 "Hi - ther, page, and stand by me, If thou know'st it, tel - ling,
 3 "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine. Bring me pine - logs hi - ther:
 4 "Sire, the night is dark - er now, And the wind blows strong - er;
 5 In his ma - ster's steps he trod, Where the snow lay dint - ed;



When the snow lay round a - bout, Deep, and crisp, and e - ven:
 Yon - der pea - sant, who is he? Where and what his dwel - ling?"
 Thou and I will see him dine, When we bear them thi - ther."
 Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no long - er."
 Heat was in the ve - ry sod Which the saint had print - ed.



Bright - ly shone the moon that night, Though the frost was cru - el,
 "Sire, he lives a good league hence, Un - der - neath the moun - tain,
 Page and Mon - arch, forth they went, Forth they went to - geth - er;
 "Mark my foot - steps, my good page; Tread thou in them bold - ly:
 There - fore, Christ - ian folk, be sure, Wealth or rank pos - sess - ing,



When a poor man came in sight, Gath' - ring win - ter fu - el.
 Right a - gainst the for - est fence, By Saint A - gnes' foun - tain."
 Through the rude wind's wild la - ment And the bit - ter wea - ther.
 Thou shalt find the win - ter's rage Freeze thy blood less cold - ly."
 Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall your - selves find bless - ing.

** "Feast of Stephen," for the first Christian martyr, is December 26.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Children & Youth of all ages are invited to an Epiphany Party on January 6th from 10am – 1pm to celebrate the coming of the Wisemen and the conclusion of the Christmas season. This event for Central, United, and Emmaus (CUE) will be hosted at Central Lutheran in the Parish Hall. Our youth minister, Crystal Miller (503-320-4055) would love to hear from adults who are willing to volunteer for this event.

Together Tuesdays will resume on January 9th with the meal served beginning at 5:15pm, followed by Music Together, Children's Choir, and Adult Education starting at 6pm. (Note: There will be no Together Tuesday activities on January 2nd.)

Music Together – Winter Term (10-week classes) begin the week of January 8th. This is a unique program for children under the age of 5 years to be exposed to early childhood music education. The child must be accompanied by a parent/grandparent. To register, or for more info, go online to musictogethereugene.com.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.

*We wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a joyful new year.
Laurie, Ben, Clare, ElRay, Lindsey, Kristi, Cindy, and Crystal.*



CAROL #281 Silent Night, Holy Night!

(You may sing the first stanza in either German or English.)

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.