

Christmas Eve Festival Worship  
December 24, 2023  
9:30pm



Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene, Oregon  
541-345-0395  
[www.welcometocentral.org](http://www.welcometocentral.org)

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*Advent has now led us through the prophets and writings of ancient days to the manger of Bethlehem. There we sing and rejoice and give thanks. God has kept the promises of old. The gift has been given. The Messiah has come. Tonight we invite you to enter more fully into the mystery and wonder of the Word made flesh who lived among us full of grace and truth.*

*Tonight's liturgy is adapted from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006, Augsburg Fortress, reprinted by permission through One License #A-706755 with special permission to live-stream granted by Augsburg Fortress and One License.*

### CAROLS PRECEDING THE SERVICE

*Fantasia on Pia Cantiones* arr. Stewart-Cook  
The Central Brass Ensemble, Timpani and Organ

*(All worshipers are invited to join in the carols and liturgy printed in bold)*

#### **CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

*Still, Still, Still, A German Carol*  
Steve Rodgers, Tenor with Jack Benda, Violin & Martha Griffith, Harp

*Carol of the Bells* Leontovitch arr. Stewart-Cook  
Central Handbell Ensemble

*While by My Sheep*, A German Carol  
Alyse Jamieson and Naomi Castro  
Jack Benda Violin, & Martha Griffith, Harp

**CAROL What Child is This**

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are  
keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on nigh, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

*Candlelight Carol* - John Rutter  
The Central Chorale

*Lute Book Carol* - arr. Geoffrey Shaw; Keith Snell  
The Central Brass Ensemble

*O Holy Night* - Adolphe Adams  
David Gustafson, Tenor

# CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Reader: Bernie Bopp

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

*Pealing a joyful welcome to Christmas!*

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL: Once in Royal David's City

Stanza 1: Solo - Honora Mathisen-Lund; Stanza 2: Central Chorale

Stanzas 3-6: The Congregation (*please stand for Stanza 3*)



3 And through all his won-drous child-hood he would hon-or and o-bey,  
4 For he is our child-hood's pat-tern: Day by day like us he grew;  
5 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re-deeming love,  
6 Not in that poor low-ly sta-ble with the o-xen standing by,



Love and watch the low-ly maid-en in whose gen-tle arms he lay; Christ-ian  
He was lit-tle, weak, and help-less; Tears and smiles like us he knew; And he  
For that child so dear and gen-tle is our Lord in heav'n a-bove; And he  
We shall see him; but in hea-ven, set at God's right hand on high, When like



child-ren all must be mild, obe-di-ent, good as he.  
feel-eth for our sad-ness, And he shar-eth in our glad-ness.  
leads his child-ren on to the place where he is gone.  
stars his child-ren crowned when in white shall wait a-round.

## GREETING

The grace of the Christ-child, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Personet hodie

Organ

1. On this day earth shall ring  
 2. His the doom, ours the mirth;  
 3. God's bright star, o'er his head,  
 4. On this day an - gels sing;

with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
 when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
 Wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
 with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,

born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
 born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,

Pronounced: EE Day Oh

Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo! is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; this we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

## **FIRST LESSON    Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**CAROL**

*Sussex Carol* - David Willcock

Central Chorale

## **SECOND LESSON    Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## CAROL FOR GOSPEL PROCESSION (*please stand*)

### Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Stanzas 1 & 2 during Gospel Procession



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings:

Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise; — join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! — Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty! —  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — Born that man no - more may die. —

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to — give them se - cond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new - born king!"

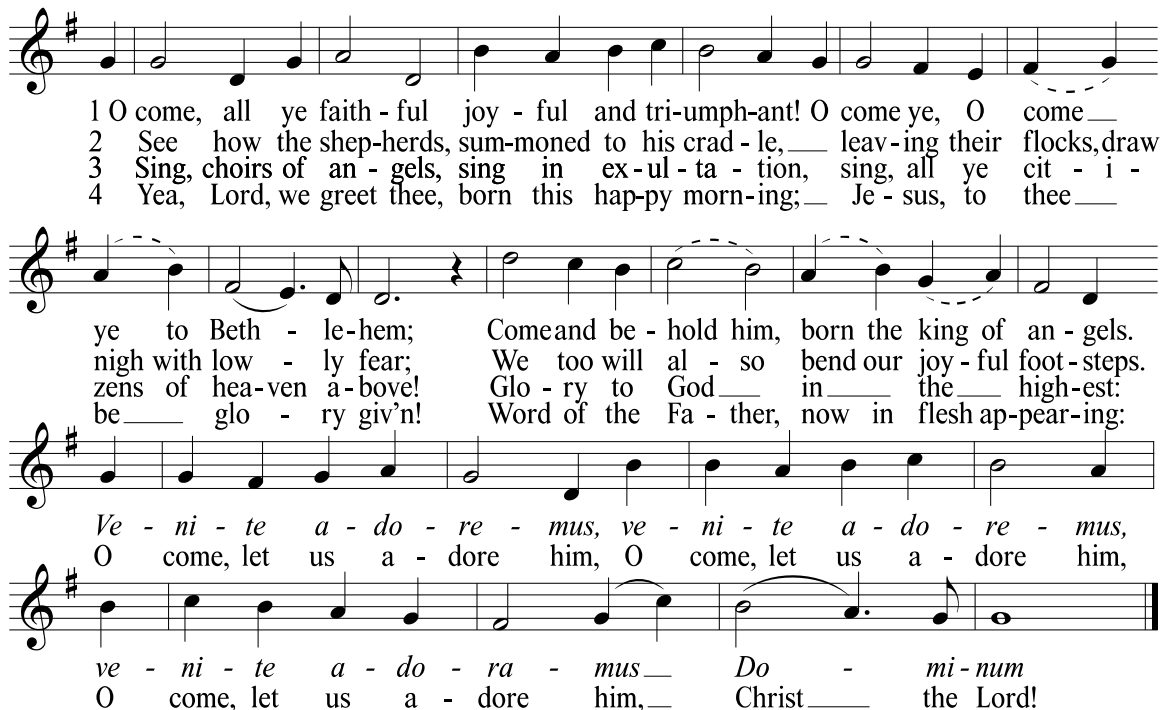
### GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

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

*[The Gospel is read]*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CAROL: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** Stanza 3 (*please be seated*)

**CAROL** O Come, All Ye Faithful (*please stand*)


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:

Ve-ni-te a-do-re-mus, ve-ni-te a-do-re-mus,  
 O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him,

ve-ni-te a-do-ra-mus Do-mi-num  
 O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (*please be seated*)**OFFERTORY CAROL**

*A European Christmas: French, English & Czech Carols* Stewart-Cook  
 Central Handbell Ensemble

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** (*please stand*)

Let us pray. God with us, you came as a baby in a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen.**



## WE CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

*This is Christ's meal, and it is Christ who bids you come. All are invited to receive Holy Communion. There will be three stations for distribution: two on either side at the front of the chancel steps and one in the balcony. You will receive the bread in the form of a wafer and then you may dip the wafer into the cup of red wine or white grape juice. (Gluten free wafers are also available; simply let your server know.) If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please let the usher know and communion will be brought to you. However, if you do not wish to receive communion you are invited to come forward for a blessing or you may simply remain seated during the distribution.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



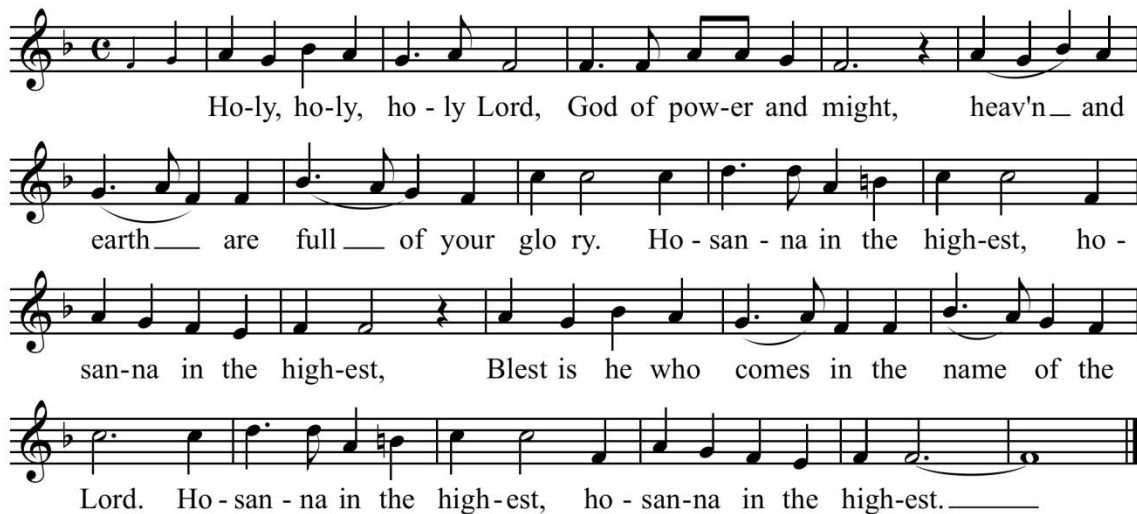
The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And al - so with you.  
We lift them to the Lord.

### 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

## EUCHARISTIC 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)*

## CAROLS DURING COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### CAROL

*Shepherd's Farewell* - Hector Berlioz

The Central Chorale

### CAROL

*Fantasia on a Carol from Coventry* - Stewart-Cook

The Central Brass Ensemble, Timpani and Organ

## CAROL Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a\_\_ man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing the poor ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord Je - sus no  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I\_\_ ask you to stay Close by me for - ev - er and

down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in\_\_ your ten - der care

The\_\_ lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay,  
And stay by my cradle un - till\_\_ morn - ing is nigh  
And fit us for hea - ven to\_\_ live with you there.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. On this holy night, O God, you gave us the gift of the Christ-child. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**CAROL** **Silent Night** (*The choir will sing a stanza from the original manuscript, then please join in singing St. 1-3 in the language of your choice*)

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.