

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
8:30am Worship



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

Welcome to Worship!

Central Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, is a Reconciling in Christ community: We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love. We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic circumstance. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by *loving* God and one another, *nurturing* faithful living, *servicing* those in need, and *sharing* the Gospel.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 659
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand as you are able)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

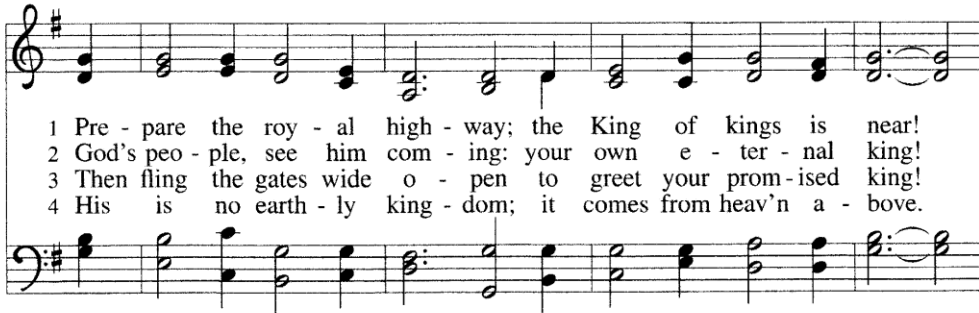
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of grace and mercy, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

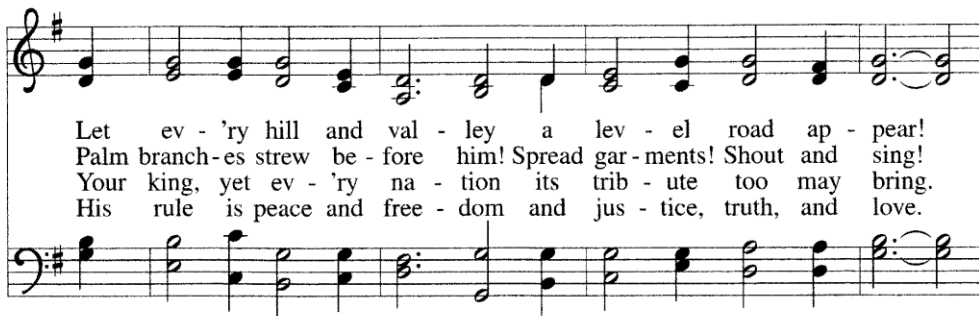
“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says our God. In ☩ Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**



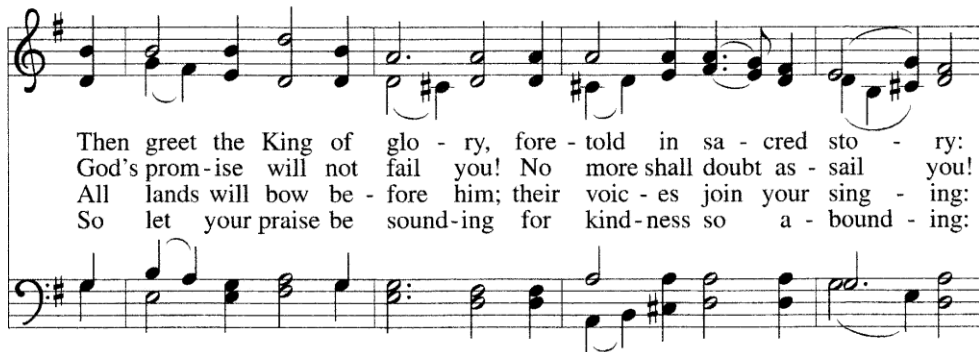
PROCESSIONAL CAROL #264 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,

and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer-cy.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Advent until we join the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest" on Christmas.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (be seated)**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The first two candles are lit as we sing...

HYMN Light One Candle



1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si-ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.

PRAYER

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As these candles glow among us, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up¹ from the earth,
and righteousness shall look¹ down from heaven.**

¹²The Lord will indeed¹ grant prosperity, and our land will¹ yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be-¹ fore the Lord
and shall prepare for¹ God a pathway.**

Glory be to the Father, and¹ to the Son, and to the¹ Holy Spirit.

As it was in the begin-¹ ning, is now, and will be fore-¹ ver. Amen.

ANTHEM

Angelus Domini Biebl
The angel of the Lord announces to Mary

Chorale

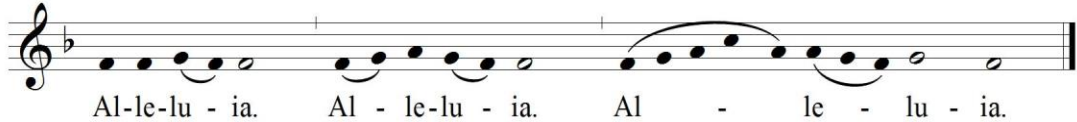
SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA



Cantors: Prepare the way¹ of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salva-¹ tion of God. *Repeat antiphon.*

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

CAROL #255 There's a Voice in the Wilderness *(please stand)*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



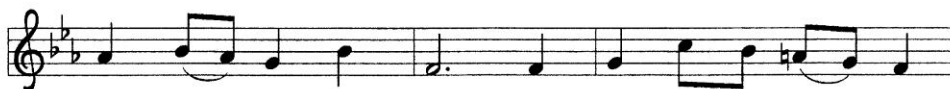
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

NICENE CREED

With the church through the ages, let us confess our Christian faith using the words of the Nicene creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OFFERING

You are invited to place your offering in the plate as you come forward for communion. During the season of Advent, we also invite you to bring non-perishable canned goods and place them in the FISH Box in the Narthex. Central has been a long-time supporter of Friends In Service to Humanity (FISH) which is an all-volunteer organization serving those in need in our community with groceries, prescription medications, and propane.

As we sing the Offertory Hymn our children are invited to collect those items from the FISH Box and place them at the foot of the altar.

OFFERTORY *Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye* from **Messiah** Handel David Gustafson

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. By your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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 also 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 ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and 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*)

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way
the of sin the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
You take a-way the of sin the world; grant us peace. A - men

ANTHEM *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, Savior of the Nations, Come*

BLESSING

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

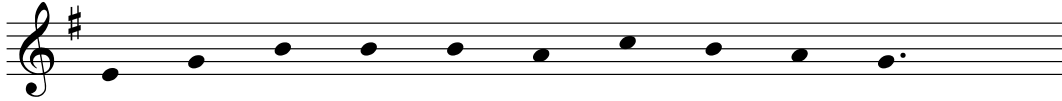
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(please stand)*

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of peace bless you, the love of † Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit, remain upon you, now and forever. **Amen.**

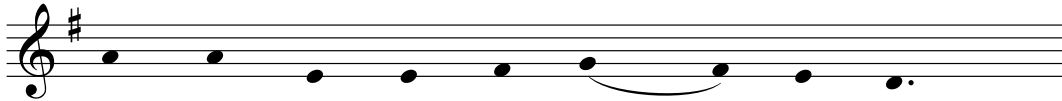
CAROL #257 O Come, O Come, Emanuel



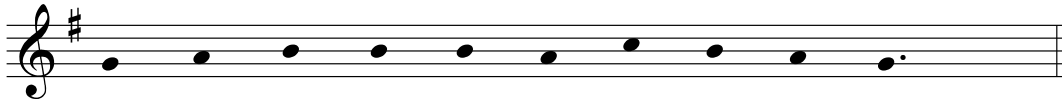
1. O come, O come, Em - man - - - u - el,
 2. O come, O wis - dom from on high,
 3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
 4. O come, O Branch of Jes - - - se, free
 5. O come, O key of Dav - - - id come,



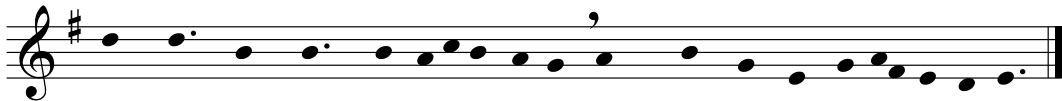
and ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el,
 em - brac - ing all things far and nigh;
 as to your tribes on Si - - - nai's height
 your own from Sa - tan's tyr - - - an - ny;
 and o - pen wide our heav - - - n'ly home;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - - - ile here
 in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 in an - cient times you gave the law
 from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 make safe the way that leads on high.



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And close the path to mis - - - e - ry.



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u-el Shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 661* Bach

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Join us next Sunday for a light luncheon & caroling at noon (following the 11am worship service.)

If you missed the opportunity to submit a photo for our Church Directory you can have your picture taken before or after the 4:30pm service on Christmas Eve. An updated directory will be printed and available in late Jan.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Together Tuesday Soup at 5pm & Holden Evening Prayer at 5:30pm
December 12, followed by Children's Choir Rehearsal & Adult Education.

Blue Christmas – Tuesday, December 19, at 7:00pm (no soup supper). This Service is geared especially for those who find the holidays difficult due to loss, grief, trauma, loneliness, etc.

Sunday Morning Advent Worship Services

(December 3, 10, 17 at 8:30 & 11am and *December 24 at 9am)

Christmas Eve Manger Service (Dec. 24th at 4:30pm)

Christmas Eve Festival Worship with Communion (Dec. 24th at 9:30pm)

Christmas Day Worship (*Dec. 25th at 9am)

7th day of Christmas Sunday Worship (*Dec. 31st at 9am)

*note time change and only one service at 9am on 12/24; 12/25; & 12/31