

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 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

Nous voici dans la ville, a French carol

Haan

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.

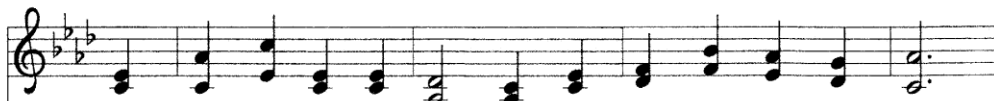
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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 # 244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



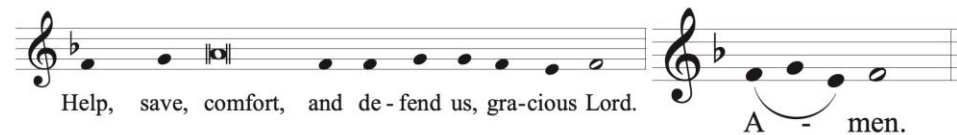
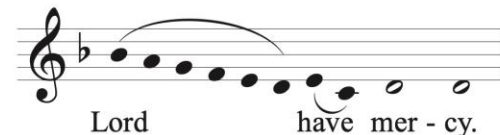
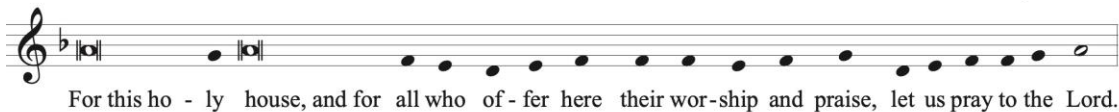
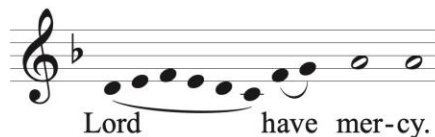
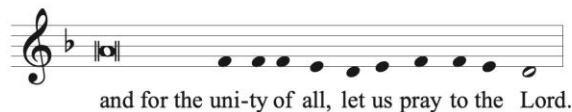
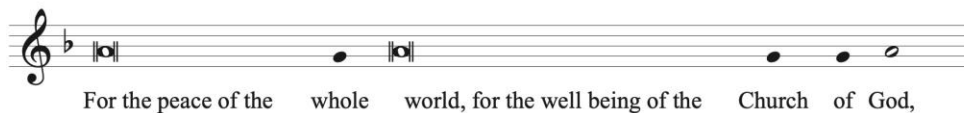
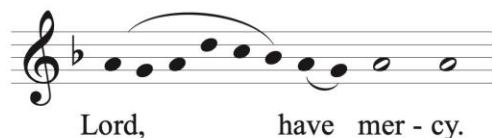
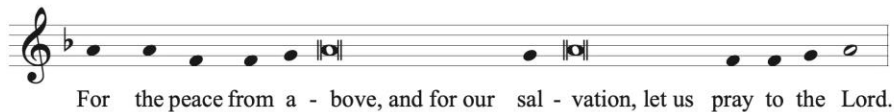
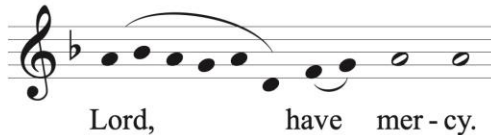
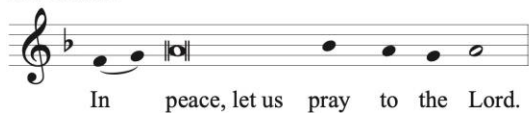
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



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



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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *(please be seated)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

The first candle is lit as we sing...

HYMN Light One Candle Stanza 1



- 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.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four 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.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As this first candle glows, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹like a flock;

shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹come to help us.**

³Restore ¹us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.



⁴**O LORD** | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision** | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at** | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD** | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit.
As it was in the begin- | ning, is now, and will be fore- | ver. Amen.

ANTHEM

Creator of the Stars at Night

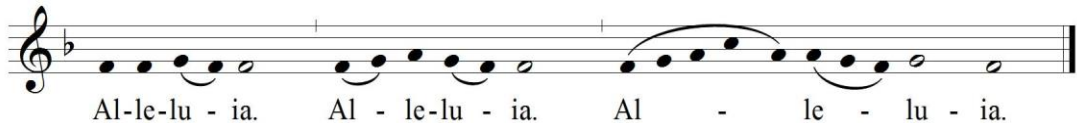
Cantors

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA



Cantors: Show us your steadfast | love, O Lord,* and grant us | your salvation.
Repeat antiphon.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

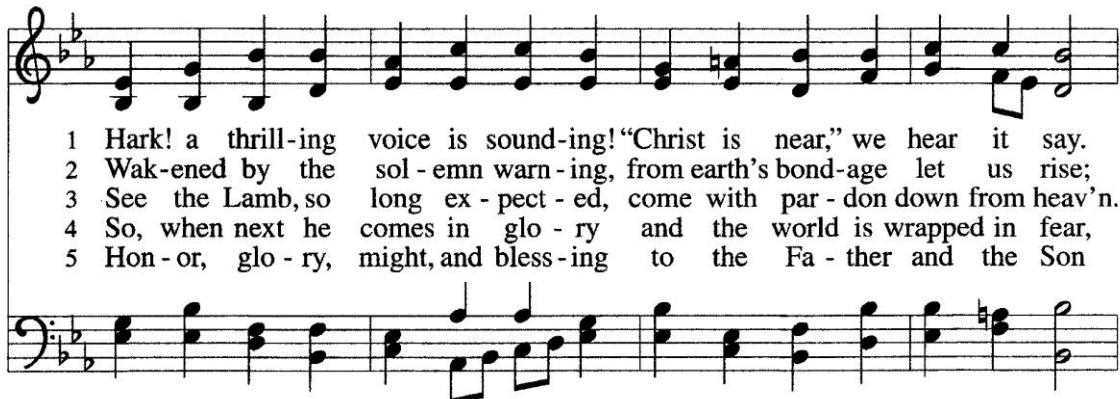
[Jesus said] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

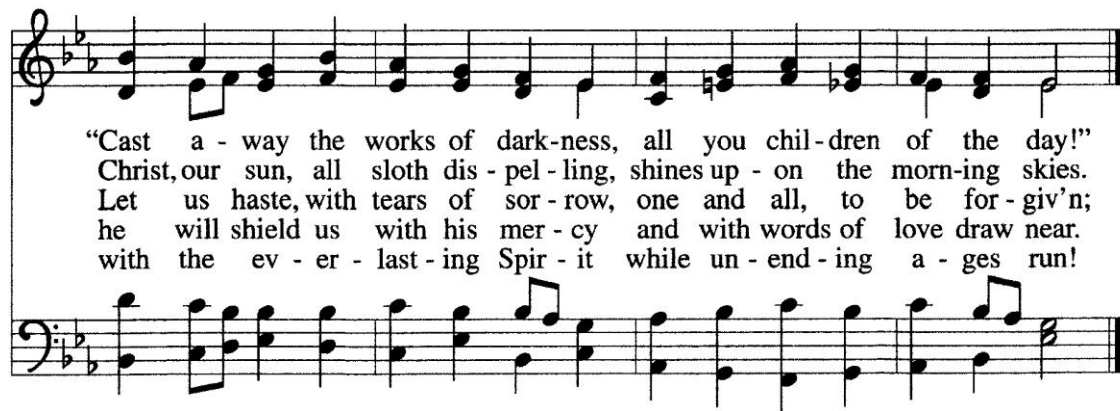
SERMON

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

CAROL Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! *(please stand)*



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex- pect- ed, come with par- don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo- ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv' n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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 HYMN (*please stand*)



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;



From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

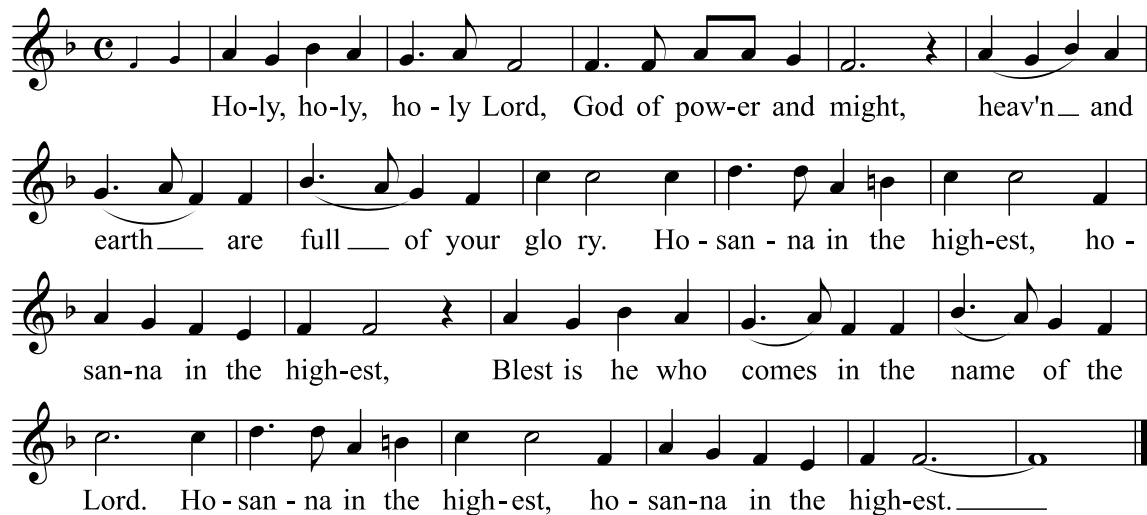
Let us pray. By your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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. (be seated)

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome to the Lord's table. You are invited to come forward to the altar rail where you may stand or kneel to receive the bread in a form of a wafer (gluten free wafers are available). Then, you may drink from individual cups (either red wine or white grape juice). If you desire to avoid climbing the steps to the chancel, please come to the front pew and the communion servers will come to you.

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

Lost in the Night

Cantors

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 #248 People Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Pièce d' Orgue, BWV 572*, Johann Sebastian Bach

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Cantors: John Shield & Emma Ditmore

A special welcome to those visiting with us today. If you are looking for a church home or would like to be added to our church's mailing list (via email or USPS), please fill out the visitor's card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to Pastor Laurie or Pastor Ben.

Individual prayer is available this morning directly following the service. You are invited to join one of our prayer ministers in the chapel for private one-on-one prayer.

Today's Adult class, taught by Pastor Ben, meets in the Library after the service. Grab a cup of coffee in the Narthex and then head to the Library for stimulating and engaging conversation.

Join us for *A Procession of Lessons & Carols for Advent* this afternoon at 4:30pm. This long-time Central tradition includes scripture readings and carols and features our amazing Chorale, Handbell Ensemble, Children's Choir and Junior Cantors, along with many gifted instrumentalists. Come and have your soul fed, then stay for the complimentary Soup Supper afterwards. Invite your friends!

Advent & Christmas Schedule at Central

Together Tuesdays (November 28, December 5, & December 12)

5:00-5:30 Soup Supper (Parish Hall)

5:30-6:00 Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)

6:00-6:45 Children's Choir (Nicki Hanson Choir Room)

6:00-7:15 Adult Class (Library)

6:45-7:15 Junior Cantors (Nicki Hanson Choir Room)

Lessons & Carols – an evening of scripture and carols featuring the Chorale, Handbell Ensemble, Instrumentalists, Children's Choir, & Jr. Cantors - Sunday, December 3rd beginning at 4:30pm followed by Soup Supper

Blue Christmas – a service designed especially for those who find the holidays difficult due to loss, grief, trauma, loneliness, etc.

Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00pm (no soup supper)

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