

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
Anno Domini (The year of our Lord) 2023
9:00am



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

Welcome to Worship!

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.

We, the staff of Central, wish you all



*May the gift of the Christ-child fill your hearts with
love, joy, & peace, today and always.*

Laurie, Ben, Clare, ElRay, Lindsey, Kristi, Cindy & Crystal

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

I Wonder as I Wander

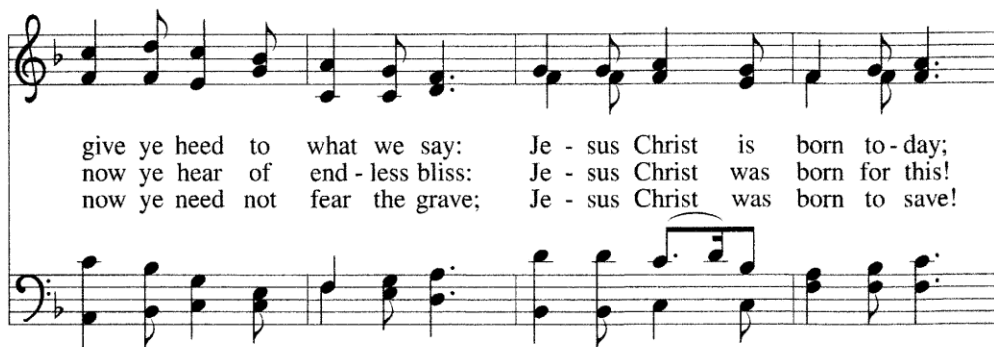
David Gustafson, Tenor

WELCOME

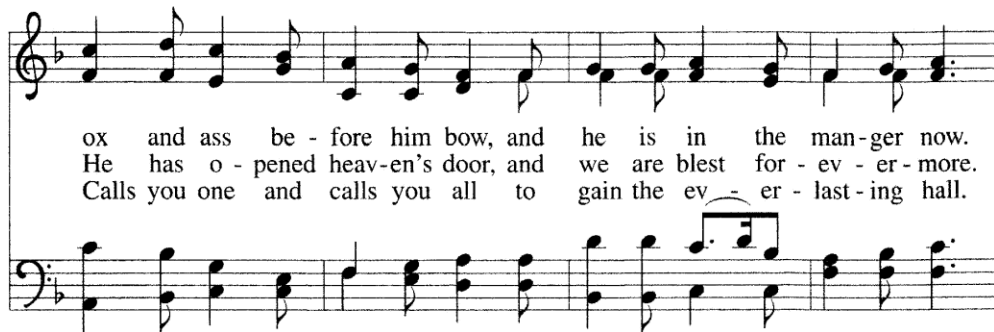
ENTRANCE CAROL #288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CHRISTMAS GREETING

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. 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Let us pray. Incarnate God, on this Christmas Day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. As these candles glow among us, grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and in our lives. **Amen.** (*The five candles are lit.*)

GLORIA



1. All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
2. O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, who God the Fa - ther
3. You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -



hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who



to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You, on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,



your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (please be seated)**

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." 8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. 9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98 (*spoken responsively*)

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter* Holst David Gustafson, Tenor

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 1:1-4

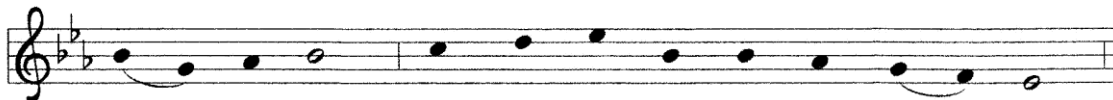
This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

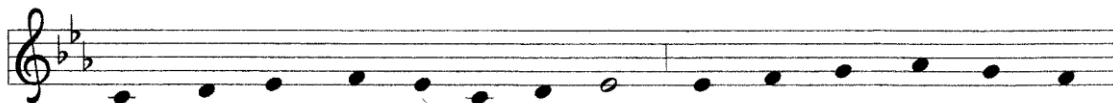
SEQUENCE CAROL Of the Father's Love Begotten (stanzas 1-2)



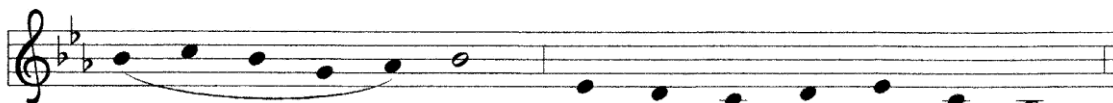
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



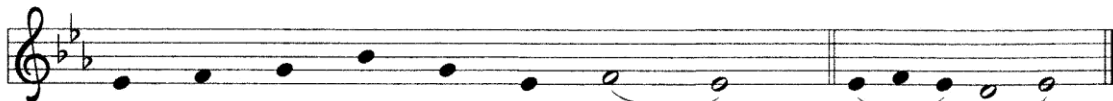
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

The Gospel according to John, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

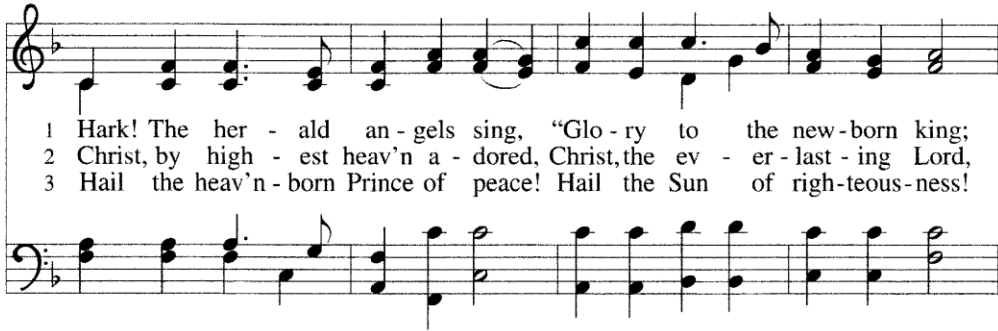
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SEQUENCE CAROL Of the Father's Love Begotten (stanzas 3-5)

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

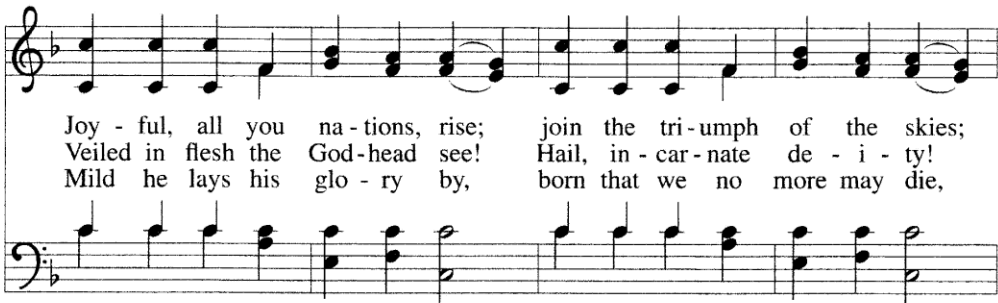
CAROL OF THE DAY Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *(please stand)*



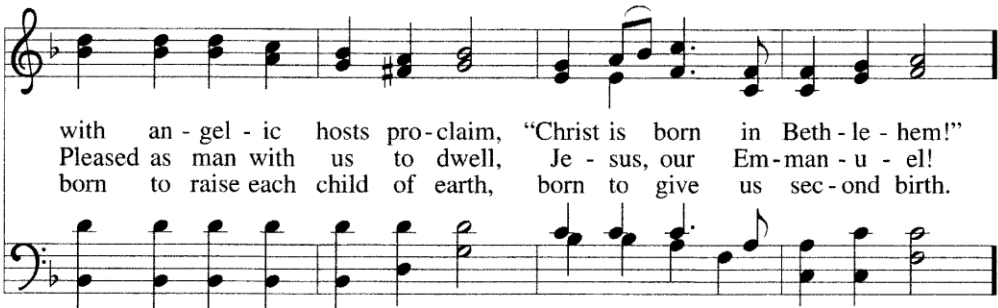
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



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, ris'n 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 we 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 each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*please be seated*)

OFFERTORY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Wilbur Held

You may place your offering in the plates as you come forward for communion.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*please stand*)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive its King;
 let every heart prepare him room
 and heaven and nature sing.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

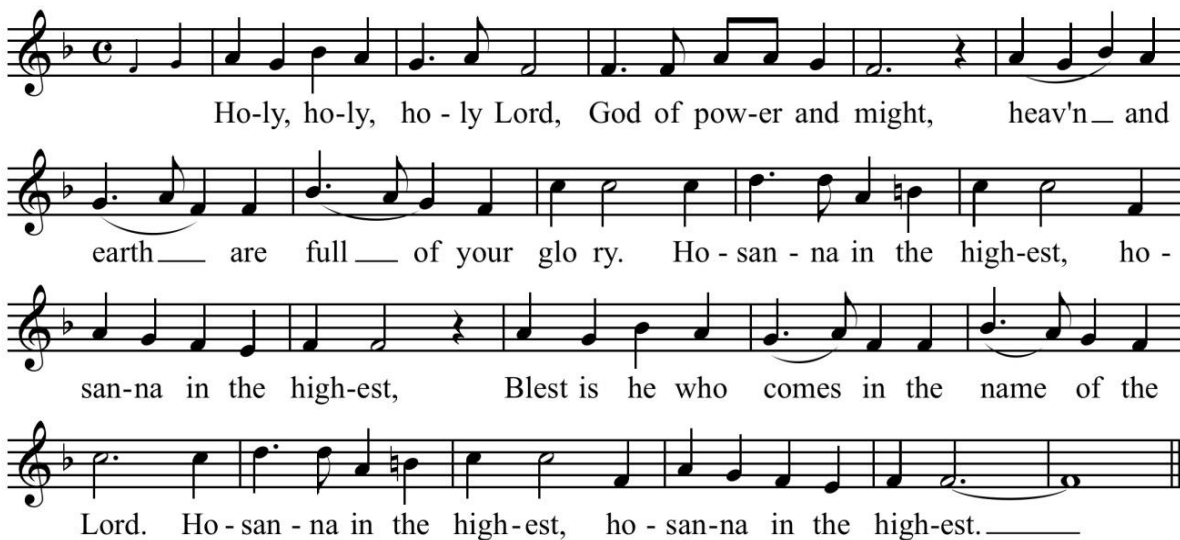
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION

CAROL DURING DISTRIBUTION *Away in a Manger* Stanza 2 solo

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.

CAROL

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.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

CAROL God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen



1 God rest ye mer - ry gen - tle - men, let no - thing you dis - may, For
2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bles - sed an - gel came, And
3 The shep - herds at those ti - dings re - joice - ed much in mind, And
4 But when to Beth - le - hem they came, where at this in - fant lay, They
5 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place, And

Je - sus Christ our Sa - vior was born up - on this day, To
un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same, How
left their flocks a - feed - ing, in temp - est, storm and wind, And
found him in a man - ger, where o - xen feed on hay; His
with true love and bro - ther - hood each o - ther now em - brace; This

save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray:
that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name:
went to Beth - le - hem straight - way this bless - ed babe to find:
mo - ther Ma - ry kneel - ing, un - to the Lord did pray:
ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all o - ther doth de - face:

O__ ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O__ ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of the Christ-child borne in our hearts today.
Thanks be to God!

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* Wilbur Held

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Join us for worship next Sunday on the Seventh Day of Christmas, December 31st, at 9:00am. (Note: there will be only one service.)

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) children and youth of all ages will be hosted at Central Lutheran in the Parish Hall. Our youth minister, Crystal Miller (503-320-4055), would love to hear from adults and older youth who are willing to volunteer.

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 2.)

Music Together - Winter Term (10-week classes) begins the week of January 9th. 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 to musictogethereugene.com.

Reminder: The church office will be closed for much of the coming week. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Laurie (206-354-6756) or Pastor Ben (208-290-1165). Also: If you intend to make a year-end gift for tax purposes in 2023, be sure it is post-marked by December 31st.

*Thank you for your ongoing financial commitments
in support of Central's mission and ministry.*

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