

Welcome the Darkness Darkness of Power/Power of Darkness

December 9, 2018

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

YOUR PASTORS

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We are glad you are here and we pray God will be real to you as you worship. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Knowing God loves all creation and holds us all, we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We welcome everyone and honor the rich diversity and giftedness that age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships.

Prelude

Fewlilles Mortes (Dead Leaves) – Debussy

We Gather Together

Welcome

For the Darkness Litany (Adapted from an Anglican Litany, 1986)

For the darkness of waiting
Of not knowing what is to come
Of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of staying silent
For the terror of having nothing to say
And for the greater terror
Of needing to say nothing,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of loving
In which it is safe to surrender
To let go of our self-protection
And to stop holding back our desire,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of choosing
When you give us the moment
To speak, and act, and change,
And we cannot know what we have set in
motion, but we still have to take the risk,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of hoping
In a world which longs for you,
For the wrestling and laboring of all creation
For wholeness and justice and freedom,
We praise you, O God.

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. A gender neutral restroom located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

Gathering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
As to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times you gave the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Greeting

The grace of our Redeemer, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



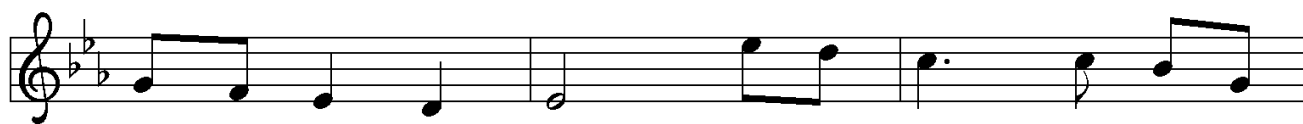
Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Salutation

God be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day - From Night Visions by Jan Richardson

You hollow us out, God, so that we may carry you,
and you endlessly fill us only to be emptied again.

Make smooth our inward spaces and sturdy,
that we may hold you with less resistance
and bear you with deeper grace. Amen

We Hear God's Word

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

P: Hear the Word of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

German Lutheran Pastor, (1906 – 1945)

"In Christ we are invited to participate in the reality of God and the reality of the world at the same time, the one not without the other. The reality of God is disclosed only as it places me completely into the reality of the world. But I find the reality of the world always already borne, accepted, and reconciled in the reality of God. That is the mystery of the revelation of God in the human being Jesus Christ....What matters is participating in the reality of God and the world in Jesus Christ today, and in doing so in such a way that I never experience the reality of God without the reality of the world, nor the reality of the world without the reality of God."

- From ***Ethics*** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Musical Interlude

Prelude VI – Debussy

During interlude you are invited to meditate and to write prayers especially for those suffering the darkness of power.



Gospel Acclamation



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- pare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

P: This is the Gospel of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Adult's Message



Hymn of the Day

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to yu - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

Prayers of the People (We respond after each petition.)

God of darkness and light, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

WE CELEBRATE THE MEAL

Offering

Offering Music

Canto de Esperanza — Edwin Mora G.

The lyrics to Canto de Esperanza, translated as Song of Hope, were written by Ester Camac, a Peruvian indigenous leader. Studying theology in Costa Rica, she actively advocates for indigenous peoples. She wrote "they are not peasants fighting for land but indigenous people for whom the land has a cultural meaning." She advocates for the support of her people, the preservation of the traditional knowledge and is a advocate for the preservation of the land. She wrote the lyrics to this hymn in 1985.

Refrain: God is uplifting the people. God is the power within us. Hope is our music and freedom our song and together our voices will sing.

Offertory Prayer

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen

Advent Eucharistic Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight to offer our thanks and praise in this Advent season of lengthening nights and increasing darkness reminding us that there is nowhere you are not, that darkness is as light to you.

We praise you, God of day and God of darkness.

God of day and God of darkness, you offer us the gifts of darkness hidden from our eyes.

We praise you for the gifts of night.

God of chaos and God of creation, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the darkness bringing all that is into being.

Brood over our present darkness with your power.

God of stars and God of candles, Abraham and Sarah lay in the barren sand pondering the stars of heaven to hear the promise: so numerous shall your descendants be.

We praise you for the gifts of promise hidden in the stars.

God of sleep and God of dreams, Jacob lay his head upon a rock at Bethel and dreamed of angels ascending and descending on a ladder to heaven.

Surely God is in this place and we did not know it!

God of night and God of liberation, our Hebrew ancestors fled Egypt in the dark led by a pillar of fire and a cloud. Through the dark sea, you led your people on foot while walls of water stood on either side.

We praise you for your Passover from death to life.

We praise and thank you, God of day and God of darkness for your gifts in this season:
(All sing from "Slowly, Slowly the Evening Falls")

**Praise the God of the evening, Mother of the fertile dark.
Praise the God of the silence in the void between the stars.
Send your Holy Shadows, cover us O God of might.
Make us whole and keep us in the womb of the night.**

In the darkest of time you sent bright angels to shepherds watching their flocks by night announcing good news of great joy.

We praise you for the advent of your son, Jesus.

He shared our days and our darkness. He brought sight to the blind and life to the listless. He preached good news to the poor. He brought the empire of the heavens near. He planted the seeds of our presence in the dark soil of history.

We praise you for the mystery of life germinating in our midst.

In the night in which he was betrayed it was dark. Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this to remember me."

Come, Lord Jesus. Feed us with this bread of heaven.

In the same way he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Take and drink. This is my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin and the healing of the world. Do this to remember me."

Come, Lord Jesus. Nourish us with this cup of salvation.

We praise you for raising Jesus from the dark tomb bringing life and light to our world.

Our souls awaken in our tombs at your coming.

Send your Holy Shadow. Cover us, O God of night.

Come, Holy Spirit, make us whole and keep us in the womb of your love.

Join our prayers with all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who
sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

We join our voices in the prayer Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer *(alternative version by Parker J. Palmer, 1991)*

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.**



Invitation to Communion

Speak to us, O God, in the breaking of the bread and make us one with you.

Communion Distribution

All are welcome to come to the feast.

Communion Hymn

As the Grains Of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

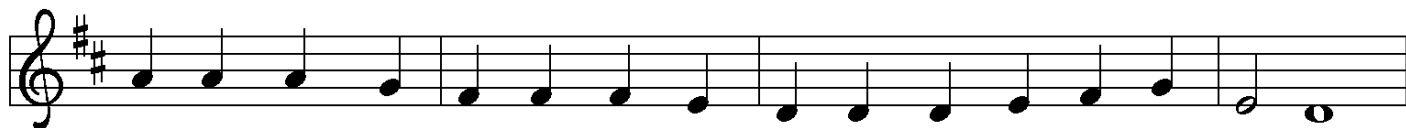
Our welcome extends to the Communion Table. We recognize that this is Christ's Table and Christ's invitation. Please come forward as you are invited. If you prefer not to receive Communion at this time, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – just fold your arms across your chest so that we know you prefer a blessing. Wine is served from the first chalice; grape juice is served from the second. We also offer gluten-free bread and individual cups of wine.

Communion Hymn

In the Singing



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



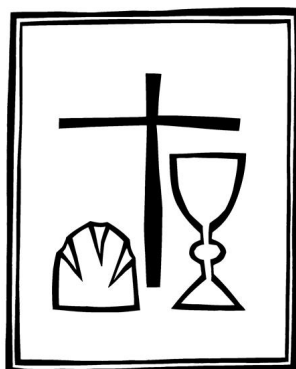
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Prayer After Communion *(from Night Visions by Jan L. Richardson)*

Holy One, You meet us in our hungering with manna not of our making, and in our thirsting you surprise us with unexpected wine. You are the source of our desiring and the end of all our longing. O Giver of the feast, and ever-present guest, blessed be. Amen



We Go Out to Serve

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn

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



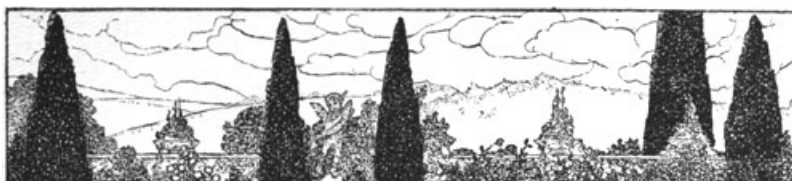
trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



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 to dispel the darkness.
Thanks be to God.



Prayer Requested For:	Prayer Concern:	Prayer Contact:
For all people who walk in the darkness, searching for meaning and treasures of the spirit.	Prayers of peace and comfort.	The People of Bethel
Jan Kimble	Prayers for healing and effective treatment for breast cancer.	Tammy Gover
Richard VanDyke	Prayers for healing and peace.	Jim VanDyke
Lori Fields	Prayers for courage and strength after stage 4 liver cancer diagnosis.	Karen Anderson
Pepe Rochon	Prayers for healing and comfort.	Faith St. John
The Delcambre Family	Prayers of peace and God's solace as they mourn the death of their infant son. Sharon has asked we let you, her Bethel family know how much your love and prayer has surrounded the family during this difficult and heartbreaking time.	Pastor Christine
Barbara Lynch	Prayers for healing and peace while. Barbara continues recovery at the home of her daughter and you may send your get well greetings to her at 803B NE 166th Ave., Vancouver, WA 08684	Pastor Christine
Friends and family of Audrey Plumb, Shirley Moore's sister	Prayers of peace and God's comfort following Audrey's death November 4. Send cards of condolence may be sent to Shirley at 2705 NW Garryanna Drive, #4, Corvallis, OR 97330	Pastor Christine
Barbara Horne	Prayers of healing and comfort.	Tammy Gover
Our prayers continue for many among us: for Bertha Anderson, Timothy Collins, Elizabeth, Rob, Jacob Bard, Miles Bard, Annalu Lingnau, Ben Lingnau, Jr., Ben Lingnau III, David Lingnau, Mary Rix, Patricia Connor, Bob & Nancy Leon.		

Stewardship of Service	Today - Dec 9	Next Week - Dec 16
Ministers:	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor:	Pr. Christine Core	Pr. Christine Core
Pastor:	Pr. Terry Moe	Pr. Terry Moe
Musician:	LeAnn Michaels	LeAnn Michaels
Usher:		
Reader:	Naso Michaels	Karen Anderson
Communion:	Joann and Emily Noll	
Preparation of the Altar:	Jackie Calder	Jackie Calder

Bethel News



Coming Up:

- Dec 10** | Bethel Discernment Team Meeting — 6:30 pm, Edman's home
- Dec 12** | Advent Book Group — 12/12 & 12/19 from 7 to 8:30 pm (Fireside Room)
- Dec 15** | Bethel Hygiene Program
- Dec 17** | Food Ministry Team Meeting — 6:30 pm, Fireside Room
- Dec 21** | Longest Night of the Year — 5-7 pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church
- Dec 22** | Christmas Program Run Through — 10 am-noon
- Dec 23** | Christmas Program — "Fumbly Bumbly Angels"
- Dec 24** | Children's Christmas Service — 5 pm & Christmas Service 10 pm

Other News

Angel Project 2018



The Annual Bethel Angel Project is well underway. Thank you to everyone who has adopted our families this year. We know you're already out shopping for those good deals that will fill the stockings. The 12 families adopted this year were identified either by the Pastors or by the Drop-In Center Director as families who could use a special boost this Christmas Season.

We are looking for help with the following:

- Organizing Food Baskets on December 14, 15, and 16
- Donation of \$25 Fred Meyer gift card or two
- Grocery Shopping
- Delivering packages and food boxes to families the weekend of December 16.

Joann Noll is coordinating the project – thank you, Joann – we admire your organizational skill! Please be in touch with Joann if you'd like to help.

email: joann.noll@gmail.com and **phone:** 314-680-1257

Bethel Choir | Rehearsing every Sunday at 9 am in the Bethel Sanctuary – JOIN US!

Christmas Program - *The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels* | 12/23



The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels have set their sights on singing in the glorious Heavenly Choir (after their last gig in the desert filled with scorpions and lizards). But instead, they find themselves singing in this tiny village of Bethlehem, a tiny town filled with scurrying people. Just as it starts to get dark and very cold, the Angels discover where they have been called to sing the best concert of all time.

Shop Amazon Smile and Raise Money for Bethel

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Bethel Lutheran Church when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0509108. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>, select Bethel Lutheran Church as your charity of choice and Amazon will donate a small percentage for every dollar spent.

Advent Book Group | 12/12 & 12/19 from 7 to 8:30 pm (Fireside Rm)

Sign up online: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/WFMTK>

We'd like to invite you to an Advent Book Club. We will be reading selections from Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, led by JulieAnn Edman.

- **12/12 | Chapter 4 "The Dark Emotions"**
- **12/19 | Chapter 7 "The Dark Night of the Soul"**

And of course, extra credit & a Hershey's Kiss will be awarded to anyone who manages to read the entire book during Advent.

Food Ministry Team | Monday, December 17 at 6:30 pm

Please join us at the next meeting of the Food Ministry Team in the Fireside Room. Like many things Bethel, our Food Ministry program to the community started small, and has morphed into something we could not have envisioned – breakfast, hygiene, assistance for Drop-In families and many others who come to us for food assistance. But now it's time to put ourselves "on the balcony" and take a look, have authentic discussions and come to some consensus about what we can do as a congregation.

We will start with a bit of biblical work and discussion, and then move into the difficult tasks of envisioning for ourselves our long term goals for this outreach program. We expect to disagree and struggle and ponder how we best go forward in doing God's work in this world. We will also be chipping away at the "technical" challenges before us, but at this stage the bulk of our work is doing the adaptive work, including meaningful conversations with all of our stakeholders, necessary to provide the best programs possible. Please join us.

Please phone Team Leader Cate Milburn for more information: 971-269-9899.

Worship Notes

Welcoming the Darkness | Advent, 2018

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.— **Isaiah 45:3**

We invite the Bethel Community to journey together to discover the gifts of darkness, to uncover the hidden treasures of night, to welcome the darkness!

Come, join the search and be enriched by the dark!

Note: Many of the prayers and images used in worship for this Advent Season are taken from the work of Jan L. Richardson's *Night Visions: searching the shadows of advent and christmas*. Many of the images reproduced on the walls of the nave are from *Night Visions*.

A Vigil of Remembrance and Solidarity

On the Longest Night of the Year and the National Homeless Person's Memorial Day

Join us as we...

- ◆ Gather to name and remember the people who died on Portland's streets in the last year.
- ◆ Show support for the Foster Street Shelter and commit to collaborative care of our shared space.
- ◆ Call on our civic leaders to end punitive sweeps and over-policing.
- ◆ Commit as a community to ensuring equitable access to
 - bathrooms,
 - garbage services,
 - safe overnight camping areas.

When: December 21st
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mark's
Lutheran Church
5415 SE Powell Blvd.
Portland, Or 97206

We will gather at St. Mark's for 3/4 mile silent procession to the Foster Street Shelter, where we will hold the vigil.

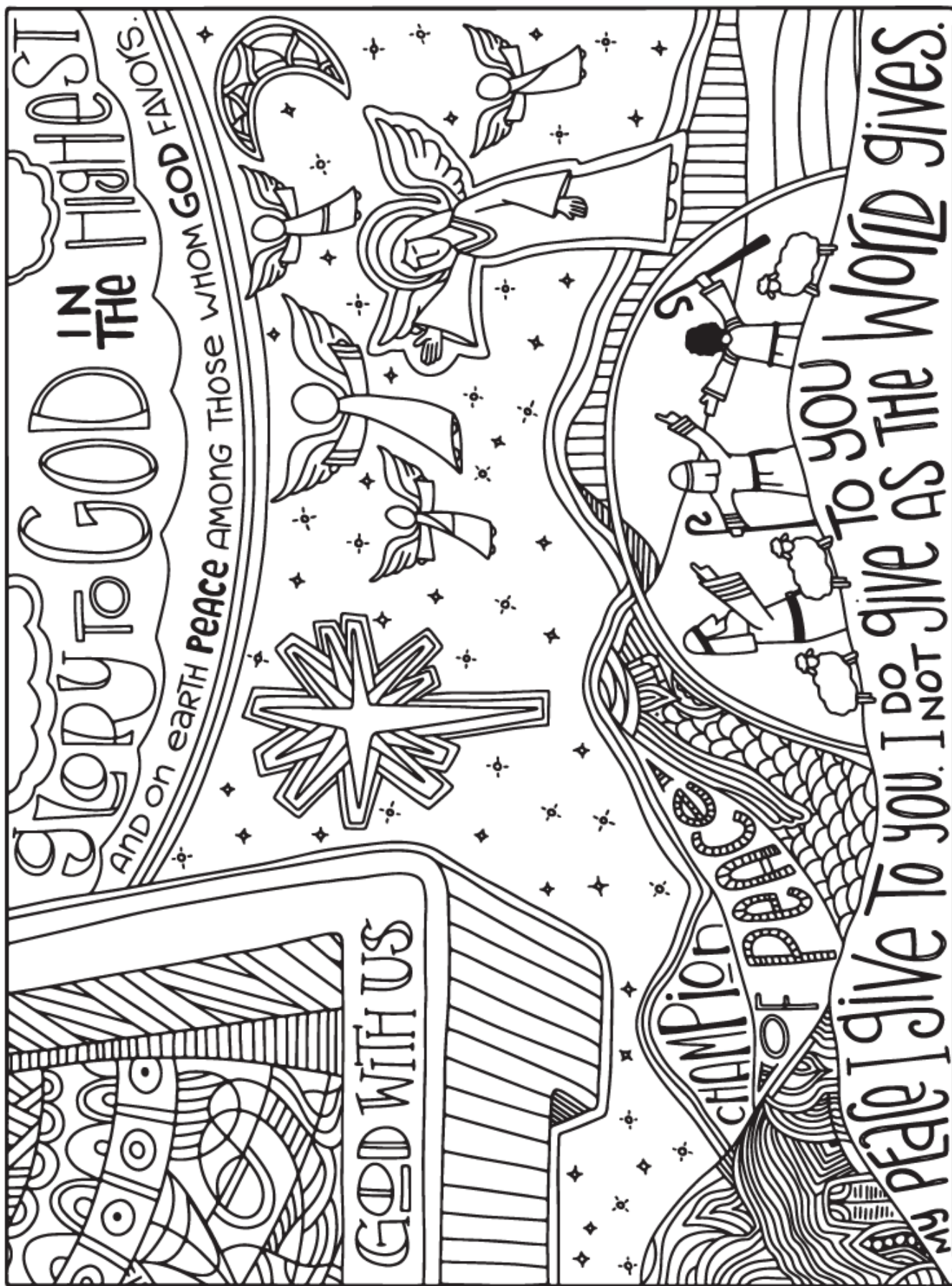
Follow this link for updated information and details on options for those who are not comfortable walking.

www.smpdx.org/vigil.html



Our growing list of sponsors: **Southeast Organizing** and the **Southeast People of Faith, Right to Survive**, **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**, and **Operation Nightwatch**.

For more information contact Katy Rustvold (katyrustvold@mac.com) or Bonnie Beadles-Bohling, (bbeadlesbohling@gmail.com)



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