

Friends,

Christmas is still weeks away but the season is here and it seems like it starts earlier every year. A couple of weeks before Thanksgiving I saw someone wearing a sweater that said, "Tis the season to be jolly!" with a big explanation point at the end. And instantaneously the song rings in my head with all the *Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-las* and everything.

I immediately think it's too early to be jolly, and I'm way too busy right now for premature jolliness. So I looked for another tune to replace it in my mind, one that wasn't optimistically jolly, and started humming *O Holy Night*.

Now this is a Christmas hymn that I love, because it focuses on the advent of Christ, not decking our halls with boughs of holly.

When it comes to the Mission, some of the men and women in our programs don't naturally fall into a jolly mood the day after Thanksgiving like many people do.

It isn't because they don't like Christmas. It's because they have bad memories associated with Christmas.

And here at the Mission we have the opportunity to give them a much grander view of what Christmas is all about, and for some, teach them about the advent of Christ for the very first time. The Christmas carol, *O Holy Night* contrasts the hopelessness of the world with hope that is only found in Christ and this is a very powerful message for Christians young and old.



O Holy Night

*O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

We are funded by generous donations from people in our community and we do not accept any federal, state, or local government funds

JACKSON CAMPUS

125 West Jackson Street
Medford, OR 97501
541-779-1597

DONATE ONLINE:

medfordgospelmission.org

DONATE BY MAIL:

PO Box 1172 Medford, OR 97501

BARTLETT CAMPUS

534 North Bartlett Street
Medford, OR 97501
541-772-2931


We don't have to look too hard to see hopelessness in our community with drugs and crime, destruction, and the pain that comes with living on the streets. The hymn speaks of the world as, *the world in sin and error pining*, people wasting away and longing for something that is just out of reach. But they aren't out of reach from our outreach team. Our staff brings the message of the Gospel to people on the streets, the *thrill of hope that the weary world can rejoice in*.

This past year, many men and women have come to the Mission weary, tired of doing things their own way, and exhausted from seeking happiness that the world cannot provide. They come to us looking for something better to have their lives restored, and this is a reason to rejoice.

Please keep the men and women that are enrolled in our restoration program in your prayers in the upcoming year as they do the difficult work of addressing the various challenges they face and as they seek ... His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Thank you for helping us restore lives of people living in poverty in our community.

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY THIS
ADVENT SEASON!



GIFTS FROM THE HEART

In honor of Jesus Christ
by Ken & Diane Capp
In honor of Scott Bryan
by Julie Sutter
On behalf of Kitty Dill
by Peggy Carson
In honor of Miles Isbell
by Julie Sutter

In memory of Nancy Mills Bachmann
by Ron & Charmaine Brackett
In memory of J. D. Beasley
by Scott & Rosemary Mallory
In memory of Earl Best
by Nickolas & Lindsay Boosalis
In memory of Norm Bishop
by Breta Smith
In memory of Brice Brandt
by John Nageli
and by Tom & Carol Nageli
and by Cara & Adam Wzorek & Sons
and by Lora & Kevin Slusher & Sons
In memory of Mildred Bray
by Joyce Lull
In memory of Wallace & Lucille Brill
by Robert & Judith Addington
In memory of Marcia Buchanan
by Douglas Buchanan
In memory of Jamie Anne Burk
by Pete & Margaret Jackson
and by Roberta Hawkins
In memory of Jami Anne Burk
by Pete & Margaret Jackson
In memory of Mickael Crumley
by Donna Scott
In memory of Ardis Crumm
by Michael & René Owen
In memory of Carol Dyson
by Jerry & Katherine Lundgren

In memory of Chuck Eccleston
by Colleen Eccleston
In memory of Buck & Steve Fixsen
by Patricia Fixsen
In memory of Craig Goodwin
by Amber Tocher
In memory of Bill Hollingsworth
by Anne Clarke
In memory of Eva Hume
by Linda Cail
In memory of Billie Joe & Joan Hunter
by Dusty & Debbie Hoffman
In memory of Merlene Lanham
by John & Sandi Musser
In memory of Pat Lee
by Robert Phillips
In memory of Jim LeRoy
by Paula LeRoy
In memory of Lu Lull
by Joyce Lull
In memory of Willard Marsh
by Marilyn Marsh
In memory of Ron McKay
by Dawn Mena
In memory of My Mother
by Ellene Lynn Baker
In memory of Gary "Bro" Mumblo
by Barbara Mumblo
In memory of Phyllis Murray
by Rolf Murray
In memory of Billie Ray Nering
by Ken & Diane Capp
In memory of Donald & LaRue Oberlander
by Richard & Melody Stevens
In memory of Ray Patel
by Hina Patel
In memory of Harold & Borgia Pickrel
by Jerry & Sharon Burns
In memory of Karen Reid
by Phyllis Newton

In memory of Bart Rossi
by Olivia Chambers
In memory of Zachary Russell
by Debra Har & Russell
In memory of Chase & Sandy Sands
by Cliff & Bonnie Sands
In memory of Nancy Scafani
by David Scafani
In memory of Jerry Scheid
by Jackie Scheid
In memory of Dorothee Shadzad
by Michelle Hobbs
In memory of Duane Shinn
by Dianne Carter
and by Garland & Roberta Shinn
In memory of My Twin Sister
by Phylecia Kurtz
In memory of Marjorie Skeen
by Ken & Sandy Skeen
In memory of J. T. Smalley
by Arlene Smalley
In memory of Hank Sutter
by Julie Sutter
In memory of Shirley Vance
by Teresa Hector
In memory of Eugene Warrick
by Janet Warrick
In memory of Horst & Margaret Wauer
by David & Helene Uhreen
In memory of Lon Wells
by Ruth Wells
In memory of Dave & Barbara Wight
Anonymous
In memory of Griff Wilder
by Pattie Wilder
In memory of Garry Wilson
by Arline Wilson
In memory of Mom
by LeRoy Romero