

December 8, 2002

Hey Kids!

Each December, it's fun to sing Christmas carols and holiday songs! Maybe you have a favorite song to sing. Write the title of your favorite Christmas song here:



Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but they were not Christmas Carols. They were songs sung at the Winter Solstice celebration as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually around December 22nd. The word "Carols" actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons – spring, summer, fall, and winter – but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas survived!

Now, during Advent and Christmas, the carols we sing tell stories about the birth of Christ. The Christmas carols and songs we find in our United Methodist hymnal teach us about faith, hope, good will, and the love Jesus brought to the world when he was born. How many hymns can you find that tell about the birth of Jesus? Happy searching and happy singing!

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of music! Thank you for the carols and songs that teach us about the very first Christmas. Amen.



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Advent Activities

Take the Christmas Carol and Song Quiz

1. According to "O Little Town of Bethlehem," (UM Hymn #230) who keeps watch with wondering love when Christ is born?
2. What farm animal is mentioned in "Away in a Manger?" (UM Hymn #217)
3. What direction does the Star of Bethlehem lead the three kings? (UM Hymn # 254)
4. What are the last four words of "Silent Night, Holy Night?" (UM Hymn # 239)
5. In "Sing We Now of Christmas," (UM Hymn # 237) angels called to shepherds to journey to what city?
6. What musical instruments are to be played merrily according to "He Is Born?" (UM Hymn #228)
7. What animal cooed baby Jesus to sleep in "The Friendly Beasts?" (UM Hymn # 227)
8. Who guards Christ according to "What Child Is This?" (UM Hymn #219)

Answers:

1. angels; 2. cow/cattle; 3. westward; 4. sleep in heavenly peace; 5. Bethlehem; 6. oboe & bagpipes; 7. dove; 8. shepherds