



December 20, 2024

7pm

Christmas
Solstice Service

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

For Light

*Light cannot see inside things,
That is what the dark is for:
Minding the interior,
Nurturing the draw of growth
Through places where death
In its own way turns into life...
And when we come to search for God,
Let us first be robed in night,
Put on the mind of morning
To feel the rush of light
Spread slowly inside
The color and stillness
Of a found world.*

~ selected verses by John O'Donohue from *To Bless the Space Between Us*

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music *We gently settle into sacred time and space*

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Hope Is A Star That Shines In The Night”

J.C. Fogg

Words of Welcome

The Calling

This is a season of expectation, when everything around us seems to be alight with anticipation. We gather in quiet hope like stars shining with beauty, unvoiced and undemanding – whose depth is seen most clearly in the darkest nights.

Let us hold each other now — we who are awaiting the light, listening and waiting for the comfort and hope we seek.

Opening Song (SPP #20) “Waiting for You”
sung twice

Advent Candle Liturgy

In this Advent season... We light the candle of Love as we once again meet angels, babies, caregivers and wanderers who bring a light into our lives that we must share with the world. Let us pray:

Emmanuel, we celebrate your Advent in Jesus. And we light an Advent of new hope, peace, joy, and love for all the seasons of your children. Amen.

Sung Response “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

traditional carol, chorus by Maren Tirabassi

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God’s children dwell.**

Prayer of Confession and Longing

God of fathomless love, grant us rest as we open ourselves to your presence. Help us to set down the worries of this season, knowing that we cannot fix every problem and that nothing will be perfect. Your love invites us to share ourselves with those who need support, to listen when another is brave enough to speak, and to trust your love to direct our actions. We long to feel and be your embrace in the midst of struggle and suffering. Amen.

...the singing bowl welcomes us into silent prayer

Assurance of Grace

One: The peace of Christ be with you! **All: And also with you!**

*Passing the Peace

...to those with us online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes

Interlude

...as we return to our seats

In a Time of Darkness

Invitation

Prayer of St. Brendan

Sung Response

“In Silence We Wait”
cantor sings once, then all sing twice

by Susan Masters

**In silence we wait,
in darkness you come to us;
bring us your light.**

First Candle

Darkness to Light

One Light looked out and saw darkness.
All “I will go there,” said Light.
One “I will go...”

Singing Bowl Meditation

Second Candle War to Peace

One Peace looked out and saw war.

All "I will go there," said Peace.

One "I will go..."

Singing Bowl Meditation

Third Candle Hatred to Love

One Love looked out and saw hatred.

All "I will go there," said Love.

One "I will go..."

Singing Bowl Meditation

Fourth Candle Losing to Finding

One We looked out and saw who and what was missing.

All "I will go there," said the Holy One.

One "Each created being..."

Singing Bowl Meditation

Sung Response

"In Silence We Wait"

all sing three times

by Susan Masters

**In silence we wait,
in darkness you come to us;
bring us your light.**

From Darkness Into Light

A Reading From The Prophets

Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11

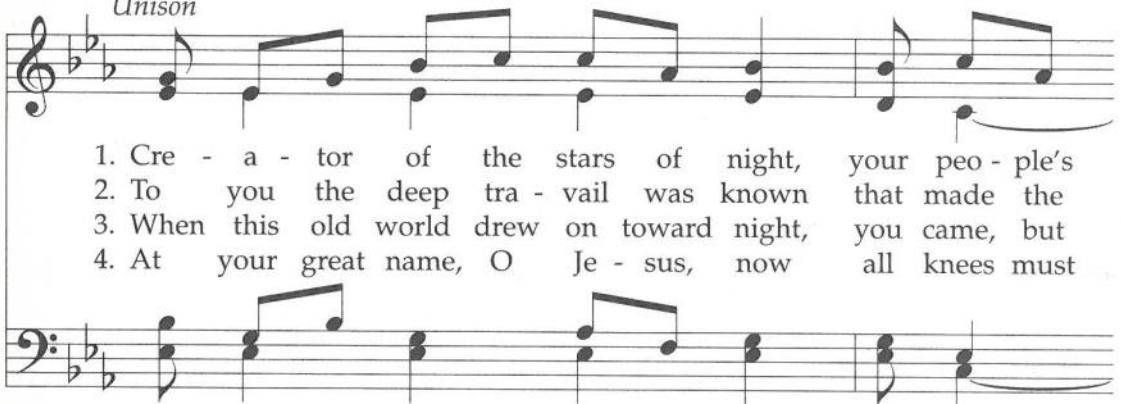
Carol (next page)

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

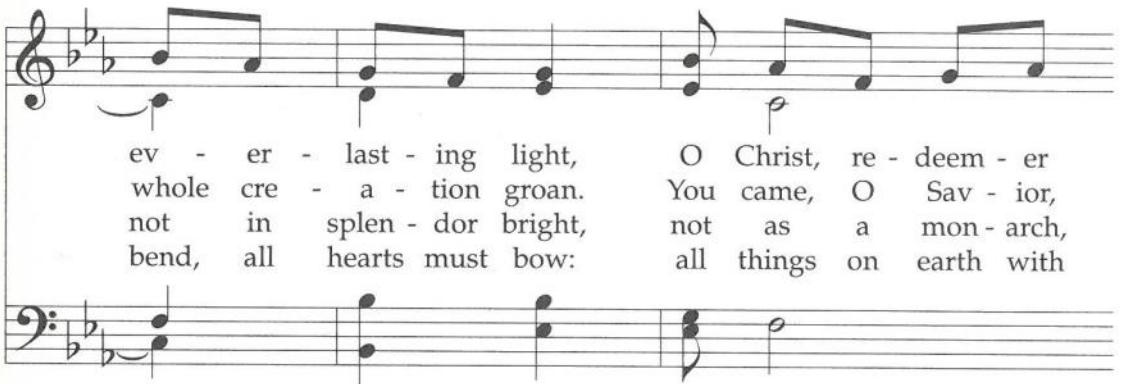
all sing (all verses)

Chalice Hymnal

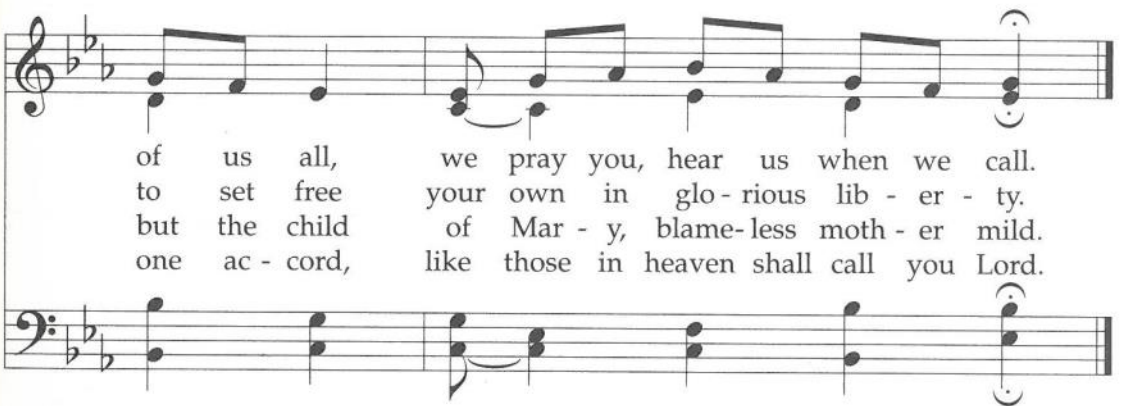
Unison



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's
2. To you the deep tra - vail was known that made the
3. When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but
4. At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must



ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er
whole cre - a - tion groan. You came, O Sav - ior,
not in splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch,
bend, all hearts must bow: all things on earth with



of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.
to set free your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
but the child of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
one ac - cord, like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

Sung Response

“Wait for the Lord” cantor sings once, then all sing twice

Taizé Community

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system also ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A Reading From The Prophets

Isaiah 9:2–6

Lighting The Christ Candle

A Time For Prayer

Christmas Intercession “When the World Was Dark”

adapted from *Cloth for the Cradle*, an Iona Community resource

Invitation To Light Prayer Candles

We bring forward written prayers, lighting a candle as a sign of hope for comfort amidst grief, healing amidst struggle, strength amidst challenge.

Musical Interlude *Played as prayers are brought forward and candles lit*

Offering Our Gifts

Invitation

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards represent gifts made electronically.



Offertory

“Star Child”

Young

Prayer Of Dedication

To you, O Holy One, we offer something of what we have out of compassion toward those we may not know. Carry our gifts to those in need of finding *hope, healing, and strength*. We pray in the name of One who brings good tidings to the afflicted, binds up the broken-hearted, and brings release to all who are bound. Amen.

Solo

“Koppangen” (Holy Night)

by Pereric Moraeus

Poetry

“How the Light Comes”

by Jan Richardson

Carol (NCH #131)

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”
all sing (all verses)

Benediction

Postlude

*Please depart the Sanctuary quietly
We are welcome to linger in the quiet and candlelight
All are invited downstairs for light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall*



Early Christmas Eve | 3 pm
Late Christmas Eve | 10 pm
*carols, candlelight,
readings, special music*

We Are St. Croix United Church

Values

Our relationships with God and each other form the current that empowers us to:

- Nurture spiritual growth
- Invest in children and youth
- Commit to social justice and inclusivity
- Offer a space of belonging
- Balance innovation and tradition

Vision


We envision an ever-expanding safe harbor where we thrive together and work with God toward love and justice.

Mission

Moved by deepening relationships with God and each other, we unite with the wider community to transform our values into action.

Thank you to today's partners: Telae (Youth and Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), St. Croix United Choir (cantors), Carol Dusbabek (greeter), Cheri Schwartz & Kathy Iverson (liturgists), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux & Sue Favilla (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla, Sharri Kinkead, Mary Binger, & Kathleen Dennison (altar decor)



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Waiting for You

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$\text{♩} = 110$

We are wait - ing for you, know - ing that you
al - ways a - bide, we are wak - ing to your pres - ence
and our hearts are o - pen wide,
o - pen wide. o - pen wide.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

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Creator of the Stars of Night

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Unison

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's
 2. To you the deep tra - vail was known that made the
 3. When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but
 4. At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must

ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er
 whole cre - a - tion groan. You came, O Sav - ior,
 not in splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch,
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of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.
 to set free your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
 but the child of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
 one ac - cord, like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

WORDS: Latin hymn (9th century); tr. as in *The Hymnal*, 1940, alt.
 MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode IV; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1943, alt.

CONDITOR ALME
 LM

Tr. © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971, The Church Hymnal Corp.

Alt. tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Luke 2:8-14

Edmund H. Sears, 1849; alt.



1 It came up-on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo, the days are hasten - ing on, by proph - et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring.”
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hover - ing wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing!
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



Edmund Sears, a Unitarian minister who served a number of congregations in the Boston area, wrote this Christmas hymn emphasizing the social implications of the Gospel for his congregation at Wayland, Massachusetts.

Tune: CAROL C.M.D.
 Richard S. Willis, 1850