



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

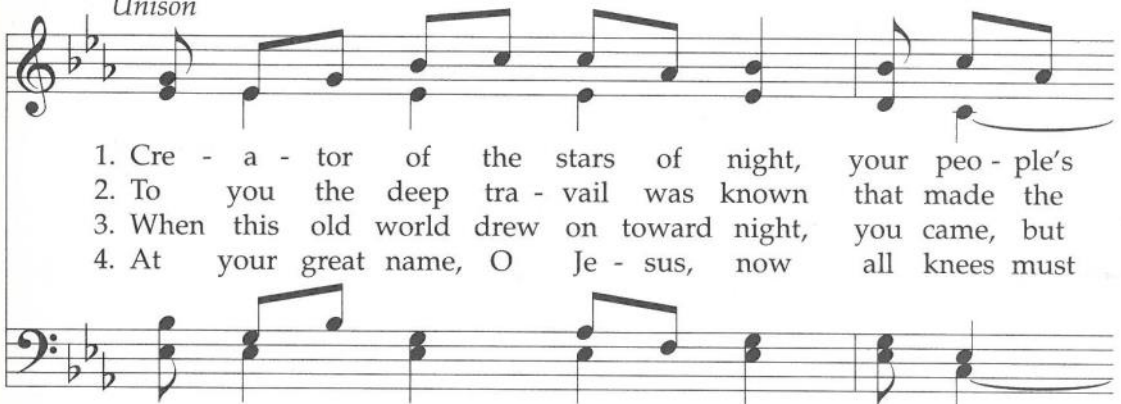
**Carol (next page)**

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

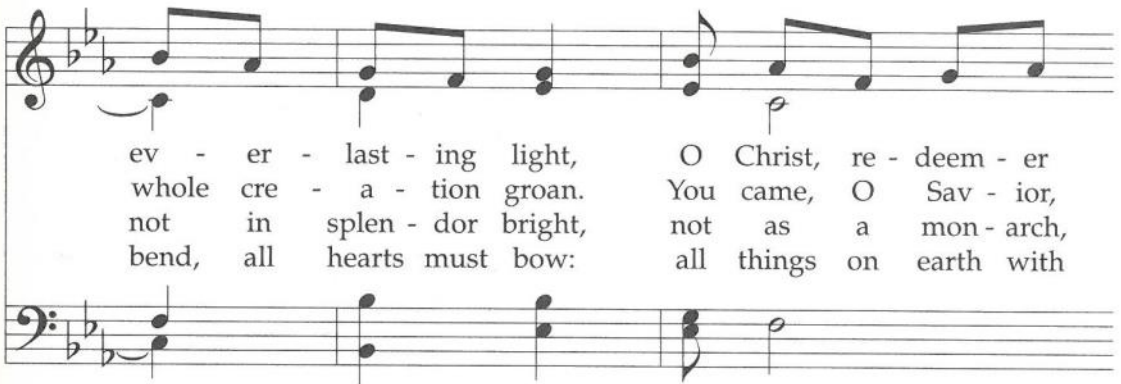
**all sing (all verses)**

*Chalice Hymnal*

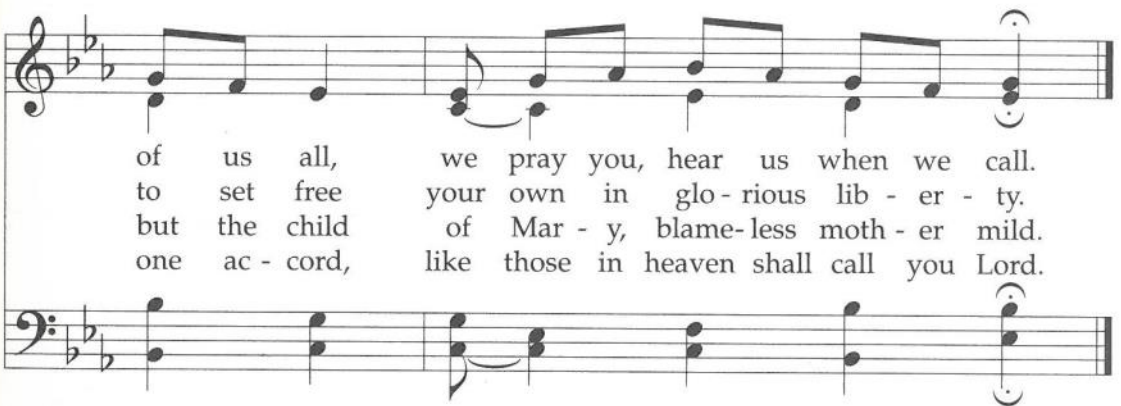
*Unison*



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: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The score includes various musical notations such as chords, rests, and a repeat sign at the end of the second system.

## 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)



**St. Croix United Church**  
Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor  
pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org  
309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028  
(651) 439-5667 / office@stcroixunitedchurch.org  
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Advent Candle Liturgy** by Maren Tirabassi. **Prayer of Longing** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, ed. Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I Tirabassi. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Dedication** written by Rev. Norma Rae Hunt. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.



# Waiting for You

20

♩=110

D A/D Gadd9 D

We are wait - ing for you, know-ing that you\_

A/D Gadd9 D A/D Gadd9

al-ways a - bide,\_\_\_ we are wak - ing\_ to your pres-ence

D A/D Gadd9

and our hearts are\_\_\_ o - pen wide,

A7sus D A/D Gadd9 A7sus D

o - pen\_ wide... o - pen\_ wide.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Copyright ©2004 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Creator of the Stars of Night

127

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.

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

