



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE  
December 22, 2024  
North United Methodist Church

PRELUDE	<i>What Is This Lovely Fragrance</i> (Old French Carol)	arr. Manz
GREETING		
CALL TO WORSHIP		
	Leader: Tonight we gather in this place of refuge, <b>People: we are lost, and we are lonely.</b>	
	Leader: Tonight we gather with friends and family, <b>People: a community made one in the brokenness of Christ, with hearts that are sad and doubting, yet full of hope.</b>	
	Leader: Tonight we gather just as we are, <b>People: knowing that God has promised to meet us here, and to welcome us just as we are.</b>	
OPENING HYMN #196	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	
OPENING PRAYER		
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Micah 5:2-5a	
PSALM 23		
RESPONSE	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	Kathleen Custer
GOSPEL LESSON	Luke 1:46b-55	
RESPONSE	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	Kathleen Custer
REFLECTION	<i>Mary Sang a Prelude</i>	Pastor Darren
HYMN (See Back)	<i>For God Alone I Wait</i>	v. 1-2

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

*First Candle*

Leader: The first candle we light is to remember those whom we have loved and lost.  
We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice,  
the memory that binds them to us in this season.

**People: O God, may your eternal love surround them.**

*Second Candle*

Leader: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss,  
whether through illness, jobs, divorce, or other events.  
We pause to gather up the grief of the past and offer it to God,  
asking that from God’s hands we receive the gift of peace.

**People: O God, accept the gift of our brokenness and lead us into your peace.**

*Third Candle*

Leader: The third candle we light is to reclaim our faith in Jesus Christ,  
the Great Physician, the Shepherd of the sheep.  
We pause to focus on Christ, whose mercy is the mystery that saves us.

**People: O God, through your faithfulness our faith is renewed.**

*Fourth Candle*

Leader: The fourth candle we light is to restore our faith in Jesus Christ,  
the Author and Finisher of our faith.  
In the midst of conflicted feelings and persistent doubts,  
we cry out to Jesus, “I believe, help my unbelief.”

**People: Come, Lord Jesus, deliver us. Amen.**

*(Worshippers are invited to come forward and light their candles while music is played.)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN (See Back)

*For God Alone I Wait*

v. 3-4

BENEDICTION

THE PEACE



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
Children’s Service, 5:00pm; Holy Communion, 7:30pm; Lessons & Carols, 10:30pm  
December 29, 11:00am—one combined worship service

# For God Alone I Wait

1. For God a-lone I wait, si-lent-ly, si-lent-ly. For  
 2. In Days of Why, I ask: O how long? O how long? In  
 3. God will my re-fuge be, 'til the end, 'til the end. God  
 4. I'll shout and sing your praise, Might-y God! Might-y God! I'll

God a-lone I wait, si-lent-ly. For  
 Days of Why, I ask: O how long? In  
 will my re-fuge be, 'til the end. God  
 shout and sing your praise, Might-y God! I'll

God a-lone I wait, my Rock, my Keep, my Safe, whose  
 Days of Why, I ask: Lord, make your hope come fast and  
 will my re-fuge be who shall de-liv-er me and  
 shout and sing your praise 'til eve-ry trou-ble fades. In

WORDS: Darren Cushman Wood, 2017 (Psalm 62)  
 MUSIC: American Folk Hymn

WONDROUS LOVE  
 12.9.12.9

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mer - cy al - ways works si - lent - ly, si - lent - ly; whose  
 quell the soul's deep cry: O how long? O how long? And  
 guard my ach - ing heart 'til the end, 'til the end; and  
 you a - lone I rest, Might - y God! Might - y God! In

mer - cy al - ways works si - lent - ly. \_\_\_\_\_  
 quell the soul's deep cry: O how long? \_\_\_\_\_  
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