

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE December 22, 2024 North United Methodist Church

PRELUDE What Is This Lovely Fragrance arr. Manz

(Old French Carol)

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Tonight we gather in this place of refuge,

People: we are lost, and we are lonely.

Leader: Tonight we gather with friends and family,

People: a community made one in the brokenness of Christ,

with hearts that are sad and doubting, yet full of hope.

Leader: Tonight we gather just as we are,

People: knowing that God has promised to meet us here,

and to welcome us just as we are.

OPENING HYMN #196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

OPENING PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

PSALM 23

RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter Kathleen Custer

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:46b-55

RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter Kathleen Custer

REFLECTION Mary Sang a Prelude Pastor Darren

HYMN (See Back) For God Alone I Wait 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

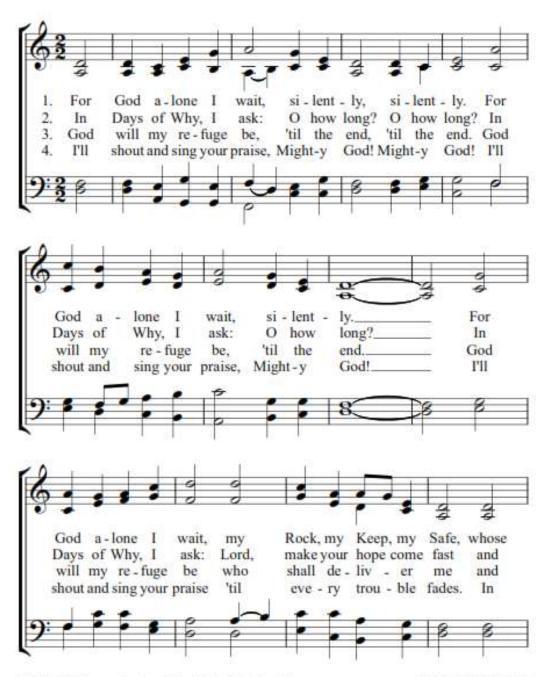
BENEDICTION

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



WORDS: Darren Cushman Wood, 2017 (Psalm 62)

MUSIC: American Folk Hymn

WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.9

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