

# Waiting for the Light

## *A Celtic Candlelight and Communion Worship Experience*

December 10, 2016 – Advent III

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Longmeadow

**Welcome!** Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we are glad you are here. Please turn off or silence cell phones to assist us as community at prayer.

This evening's worship is based on a variety of sources from the British Isles, including the Northumbria Community and the Iona Community. Additional Celtic services will be offered every second Saturday of the month. Please join us for our next Celtic worship experience "A Still Winter's Night" on January 14 at 5 p.m.

We invite guests to fill out the Connection Card in the pew rack and place it either in the offering plate as it comes by during the Offertory, or in a basket upon leaving the church.

### *The Gathering*

*Soft, meditative music invites us to quiet our busy minds and be enveloped by peace and stillness.*

**Centering** P = Presider L = Leader C = Congregation

*We begin worship by centering in God, our life source. After a chime sounds three times to invite us into the presence of the triune God, all are invited to spend a few moments in silent reflection. After the chime sounds another three times consecutively, **please stand as you are able.***

P: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord, our light, our hope, our encircler.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### *The Ceremony of Light*

#### **Advent Candle Lighting**

*After the third candle (Joy) of the Advent Wreath is lit, the following call and response is said.*

L: Joy is God's melody amid the discord of life, a song carrying the rhythm of eternity and touching the chords of longing in our souls.

**ALL: Creator of the stars of night, renew in us this night the promises of light after darkness, day after night, hope after despair, joy in this moment for our trust is in you. Amen.**

♪ O Come, O Come Emmanuel – **All sing.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

#### **Lighting of the Three Candles**

*As the following call and response is said, three candles are lit.*

P: We will light a light in the name of the Maker. **C: The Creator of the stars of night who lit the world and gave us the Light of life.** P: We will light a light in the name of the Son. **C: The Light of the World who shines in the darkest corners around us and in us.** P: We will light a light in the name of the Spirit. **C: The Fire of Love who inflames the world and gives us the spark of life.**

**ALL: God above us, God beside us, God beneath us; the Beginning, the End, the Everlasting One. Amen.**

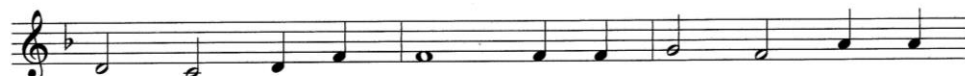
### A Prayer for Light

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** P: Let us pray. Light of all light, out of the world's primeval darkness you flooded the universe with light. In the quiet of this place, in the dark of night, we wait and watch. In the stillness of our souls and from its fathomless depths, the senses of our hearts are awake to you. For fresh soundings of life, for new showings of light, we search in the silence of our spirits, O God. **C: Amen.**

*Please be seated and reflect on God's light overcoming the darkness in your life and in the world as the rest of the candles are lit. All are invited to sing the following hymn while the candles are lit.*



1. God of day and God of dark - ness, Now we  
2. Still the na - tions curse the dark - ness, Still the  
3. You shall be the path that guides us, You the  
4. Praise to you in day and dark - ness, You our



stand be - fore the night; As the shad - ows stretch and  
rich op - press the poor; Still the earth is bruised and  
light that in us burns; Shin - ing deep with - in all  
source and you our end; Praise to you who love and



deep - en, Come and make our dark - ness bright. All cre -  
bro - ken By the ones who still want more. Come and  
peo - ple, Yours the love that we must learn. For our  
nur - ture As a fa - ther, moth - er, friend. Grant us



a - tion still is groan - ing For the dawn - ing of your  
wake us from our sleep - ing, So our hearts can - not ig -  
hearts shall wan - der rest - less 'Til they safe to you re -  
all a peace - ful rest - ing, Let each mind and bod - y



might, When the Sun of peace and jus - tice  
nore All your peo - ple lost and bro - ken,  
turn; Find - ing you in one an - oth - er,  
mend, So we rise re - freshed to - mor - row,



Fills the earth with ra - diant light.  
All your chil - dren at our door.  
We shall all your face dis - cern.  
Hearts re - newed to King - dom tend.

*The Liturgy of the Word*

Psalm 139: 10-11

L: If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,"

**C: darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; L: the night is as bright as the day; C: darkness and light to you are both alike.**

♪ *Canticle of the Turning* – ***Please stand as you are able and sing.***

(Based on the "Song of Mary" in the Gospel of Luke.)

**The music is on the next page continues on the next page.**

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the  
 fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the  
 dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952  
 Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952  
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The Gospel: John 1:3-5

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **C: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

P: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection *Silence to follow.*

### Intercessory Prayer

L: With prayers for a world waiting in hope, let us turn to God, and we shall be saved. Shining God, even the darkness is not dark to you. **C: Shine in our darkness, Light of our lives.**

L: When we walk in the gray gloom of confusion, **C: when pain drains the color out of life,**

L: when we are paralyzed by the darkness of fear, **C: shine in our darkness, Light of our lives.**

L: When we know that others are walking in the darkness, **C: give us the strength to be light for them.**

All are invited to come forward to light a votive for your own needs, the needs of others, and the needs of the world.

*The prayer period concludes by all praying the following prayer.*

P: Let us pray. **ALL: My Christ. My Christ. My shield, my encircler, each day, each night, each light, each dark. Be near me, my treasure, my triumph. Amen.**

### Confession and Words of Grace

P: As we await the consummation of the Light, let us recall how we bring darkness to others. Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence is kept.*

**ALL: Merciful God,**

**we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though**

**the Light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Prince of Peace you sent to be among us and to live in us. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your presence, the needs of others and the beauty of your creation. Help us rejoice in the Light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.**

P: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **The Peace**

P: God makes peace within us. **C: Let us claim it.** P: God makes peace between us. **C: Let us share it.** P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.** *The peace is exchanged with your neighbors as you say “peace” and shake hands.*

### **Announcements**

#### *The Holy Communion*

##### **The Offertory**

*As we sing the following hymn, we are invited to give back to God what God has given us. An usher will pass an offering plate pew by pew. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as it passes by. The gifts of bread and wine are prepared for the celebration of Holy Communion.*

*After the offering is presented, the Presider says,*

Receive, O God our Creator, the offerings which we make to you of what you have given us from your creation, so that the power of your grace these holy mysteries may sanctify our present life and bring us to everlasting joy. **ALL: Amen.**

##### **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.** P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who is Creator of all life and light. Though our days vanish like mist, and the light of the earth fades away in the distance, still your Spirit is within all life, and every human being is born in your likeness. And so with the whole created order, with the stars that silently glisten with life’s glory, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that whispers, with the trumpets of heaven’s messengers and the echo of the saints, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

**ALL: Holy most holy, all holy the Lord in power and wisdom, for ever adored**

**The earth and the heavens are full of Your love**

**Our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessed, most blessed, all blessed is He whose life makes us whole**

**And whose death sets us free**

**Who comes in the name of the Father of light**

**Let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

Tune: *Slane*

P: Blessed are you, O God, whose wisdom from above has inspired men and women through the ages to fulfill on earth your purposes – to hear the cry of the poor, to act with mercy, and to live together in gentleness and peace. We bless you for the coming of Christ, who in life and in death

embodied the law of love. By his rising again, he has given us abundant life now and forevermore, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit, he has given us courage and hope to face the forces of darkness and death that rage around and within us.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he shared it with his disciples, saying, "Drink this all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

**ALL: Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him, and one with each other, we offer these gifts, and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.**

P: O God, whose generosity is unbounded and who wills that we should lack no good thing, bless this bread and this wine with your Holy Spirit, that in receiving them into ourselves we may be made whole again, strengthened not merely for self alone, but for the life of the world; through Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **ALL: AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*After a period of silence is kept, the Presider says,*

Alleluia. This is the Living Bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

**C: Whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia.**

### **The Invitation**

P: This is the table not of the Church but of the Lord. It is to be made ready for those who love him, and who want to love him more.

**ALL: So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a very long time, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.**

P: Come, not because it is I who invites you: it is our Lord. It is God's will for you to meet God here.

### **About Receiving Communion**

*All who seek the presence of God through Holy Communion are welcome to receive. Some consume the bread and the wine separately, others intinct (dip) the bread in the wine. Please do whatever is comfortable for you. **Gluten free wafers are available – please request one from the***

*Presider.* If you prefer to be blessed instead of receiving Communion, please cross your arms in the form of an "X" over your chest. Children are welcome to receive at their parents' discretion.

**AFTER YOU RECEIVE COMMUNION AND BEFORE RETURNING TO YOUR SEAT, PLEASE TAKE CANDLE FROM THE BASKET AND LIGHT IT. AN ACOLYTE WILL ASSIST YOU.**

### The Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. **ALL:** Gracious God, we give you thanks for meeting us in the Bread of Life and cup of salvation. May we live his risen life to bring life to others. May we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Blessing

#### ♪ Closing Song *Day is Done* – **All sing.**



1. Day is done, but Love un-fail-ing Dwells ev-er  
2. Dark de-scends, but Light un-end-ing Shines through our  
3. Eyes will close, but you un-sleep-ing Watch by our



here; Shad-ows fall, but hope, pre-vail-ing,  
night; You are with us, ev-er lend-ing  
side; Death may come, in Love's safe keep-ing



Calms ev-'ry fear. God, our Mak-er, none for-sak-ing,  
New strength to sight. One in love, your truth con-fess-ing,  
Still we a-bide. God of love, all e-vil quell-ing,



Take our hearts, of Love's own mak-ing; Watch our sleep-ing,  
One in hope of heav-en's bless-ing, May we see, in  
Sin for-giv-ing, fear dis-pel-ling, Stay with us, our



guard our wak-ing, Be al-ways near.  
love's pos-sess-ing, Love's end-less light!  
hearts in-dwell-ing, This e-ven-tide.



## **The Dismissal**

P: Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that here represent the presence of the Holy in our midst, **C: But we will carry the light in our hearts, and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.**

*Please extinguish your candle at this point and keep it upright to avoid the wax from dripping. Please return the candle in the foil trays upon leaving the church.*

P: Let us bless the Lord, our light, our hope, our encircler, the Holy Three in One. Alleluia. Alleluia. **C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **Worship Leaders**

The Meadow Flutes

Sue Riley Accompanist (Director of Music Ministry at St. Andrew's)

Karen Gladwin, Cantor

Joyce Dupont and Larry Morrow, Eucharistic Ministers

Grace Kimball and Eric Murray, Acolytes

Pat Loftus, Rob Morgan, Casey Thomas and Cooper Thomas, Ushers/Greeters

## **Acknowledgements**

The prayers and music appearing in this worship guide were taken (some modified) from sources including *A Celtic Primer*, *Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from The Northumbria Community*, *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, *Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer* by J. Philip Newell, *The Pattern of Our Days: Worship in the Celtic Tradition from the Iona Community*, *A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season*, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and *Gather*. Scripture passages are from *The New Revised Standard Version*. All music reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-719660.