



A Still Winter's Night:

A Celtic Candlelight and Communion Service

5:00 p.m. + January 14, 2017

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Longmeadow, Massachusetts

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. The next one will be celebrated on February 11.

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

*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.***

♪ **Music Meditation 1 - 'Tis Winter Now**

Soloist Only: 'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
has left the heavens all coldly clear;
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
and all the earth lies dead and drear.

**ALL: And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
his life within the keen air breathes;
his beauty paints the crimson dawn,
and clothes each branch with glittering wreaths.**

Words: Samuel Longfellow Tune: *O Waly, Waly*

P = Presider L = Leader C = Congregation

(Please STAND as you are able.)

L: In the infinity of night skies **C: in the soft glowing of the moon** **L:** in the whirling elemental winds **ALL: Your are God and we bless you.**

The Ceremony of Light

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 pale moon 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 life 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 warms our hearts and lives.** **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. God of all creation, of bare forest and low northern skies, of paths unknown and never to be taken, of bramble, sparrow and damp, dark earth. We thank you for loss, for the breaking of the dimming year. We thank you for light, even in its seeming midwinter failing. We thank you for life, for its hope and resistance, like a seed dying and living. **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. After an instrumental introduction, all sing:

LINCOLN (Bell)



- 1 Now that evening falls,
gently fades the light;
moon replaces sun and
day takes leave of night.
- 2 Gratitude we raise
for the day that's done,
and for what, tomorrow,
waits to be begun.
- 3 Gladly we commit
to God's gracious care
those we love and long for,
those whose lives we share.
- 4 Glory be to God,
glory to God's Son,
glory to the Spirit
ever three in one.

John L. Bell (b.1949)

The Liturgy of the Word

A Call and Response Meditation for Winter

L: As winter trees stretch out bare arms to a dark sky, **C: we stretch out in the darkness to find the touch of love.** L: As snowdrops turn their gentle faces to the sun, **C: we long to find in that warmth the promise of peace.** L: As the fire breaks the shell of the seed, **C: so may our pain break the shell of isolation that protects us from ourselves.** L: In the security of darkness, the warmth of sunshine, the promise of fire, **C: may we blossom anew in the miracle of your saving love, O God.**

♪ Put Peace into Each Other's Hands – **Please stand as you are able and sing verses 1-3.**



1. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands And
2. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands With
3. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands, Like
4. Give thanks for strong yet ten - der hands, Held
5. Reach out in friend - ship, stay with faith, In



like a treas - ure hold it; Pro - tect it like a
lov - ing ex - pec - ta - tion; Be gen - tle in your
bread we break for shar - ing; Look peo - ple warm - ly
out in trust and bless - ing. Where words fall short, let
touch with those a - round you. Put peace in - to each



can - dle flame, With ten - der - ness en - fold it.
words and ways, In touch with God's cre - a - tion.
in the eye: Our life is meant for car - ing.
hands speak out, The heights of love ex - press - ing.
oth - er's hands: The Peace that sought and found you.

Text: Fred Kaan, 1929–2009, © 1989, Hope Publishing Company
Tune: ST. COLUMBA, 8 7 8 7; Gaelic; harm. by A. Gregory Murray, OSB, 1905–1992

The Gospel: John 15:9-11

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

P: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection *Silence to follow.*

Please see the next page.

Intercessory Prayer – Please kneel or stand as you are able.

L: For earth's cycles and seasons; for the rising of spring and the growing summer; for autumn's fullness and the hidden depths of winter **C: thanks be to you, O Christ.** L: For the life force in seeds buried in the ground that shoot green and bear fruit and fall to the earth **C: thanks be to you, O Christ.** L: Let us learn from earth's cycles of birthing the times and seasons of dying. **C: show us that life springs forth from winter's dormancy, O Christ.** L: When we know that others are walking in the darkness, **C: give us the strength to be light for them, O Christ.**

All are invited to come forward to light a votive for your own needs, the needs of others, and the needs of the world. You are welcome to be seated upon returning to your seat.

The prayer period concludes by all praying the following prayer.

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

Confession and Words of Grace – Please kneel or stand as you are able.

P: Although we strive to reflect God's light, we know the reality of darkness in our lives and in our world. Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence is kept.* **ALL: Gracious God, as we celebrate the light of your love in our hearts, we confess that we have lost sight of that love. In our busyness and complacency, we turn away from pain and poverty, we avoid the sick and lonely, and we ignore the outcast and the oppressed. Have mercy on us and give us strength to truly welcome Christ's light into our hearts and to live our lives according to your will. 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 by the power of your grace these holy mysteries may sanctify our present life and bring us to everlasting joy. **ALL: Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving – Please stand as you are able.

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 A CANDLE FROM THE BASKET AND LIGHT IT. AN ACOLYTE
WILL ASSIST YOU.**

The Prayer after Communion – Please kneel or stand as you are able.

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

P: Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you, deep peace of the glistening snow to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you, deep peace of the Son of peace to you and the blessing of the Holy and Undivided Trinity be with you and those you love forevermore. **ALL: Amen.**

Please see next page.

♫ Closing Song *Christ Be Our Light* – All sing verses 1, 2 and 4.

England

Bernadette Farrell

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus4 Em Am7

1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for truth,
 2. Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for hope,
 3. Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for wat-er,
 4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less, Long-ing for warmth,
 5. Man-y the gifts, man-y the peop-le, Man-y the hearts that

Bm7 Esus4 Em Am7 D G

we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho-ly peo-ple,
 man-y des-pair. Your word a-lone has pow'r to save us.
 man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, brok-en for oth-ers,
 man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing, shel-ter-ing oth-ers,
 yearn to be-long. Let-us be ser-vants to one a-noth-er,

C Am Dsus4 D G C/G G

light for the world to see. Christ, be our light!
 Make us your liv-ing voice.
 shared un-til all are fed.
 walls made of liv-ing stone.
 mak-ing the king-dom come.

Em Bm Em Am7 D G

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness. Christ,

Dsus4 D Em Em7/D C Am7 D G

be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

Please see the next page.

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.

♪ Music Meditation 2 - 'Tis Winter Now

Soloist Only: And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
home closer draws her circle now,
and warmer glows her light within.

**ALL: O God, you give the winter's cold,
as well as summer's joyous rays,
you warmly in your love enfold,
and keep us through life's wintry days.**

Words: Samuel Longfellow Tune: *O Waly, Waly*

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

Sue Riley, Accompanist (Director of Music Ministry at St. Andrew's)
Karen Gladwin, Cantor
Lani Bortfeld and Her Students, Violinists
Charles Baldwin and Susan Baldwin, Eucharistic Ministers
Isabelle Lewis and Laurel Wildfong, Acolytes
Pat Loftus, Rob Morgan, Casey Thomas, and Cooper Thomas, Ushers
The Rev. Derrick Fetz, Presider

A Note about the Violin Trio

Lani Bortfeld, Director of STEP Suzuki Strings with her students Aislin Farris and Grace Farris, violins, are donating their services in gratitude for St. Andrew's generous donation of space for STEP's Tuesday lessons. This helps support the STEP Scholarship Fund.

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*. The Prayer for Light is by Rachel Mann. Scripture passages are from *The New Revised Standard Version*. All music reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-719660.