

## **Order of Service December 24, 2025**

### **The Midnight Clear: A Christmas Eve Service**

Worship Leader: Seth Anderson-Matz

Worship Associate: Susan Chambers

Pianist: Nancy Cramblit

Worship Tech: Andy Roberts

#### **Prelude – Nancy**

#### **Welcome and Announcements – Susan**

#### **Singing Bowl – Seth**

#### **Chalice Lighting – Susan reads, Seth lights**

If you are viewing through Zoom, please type into the Chat that a chalice is lit on [your street], and join in saying these words:

*We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.*

#### **Call to Worship – Seth**

Come, let us worship together.

#### **Carol — STLT #244, “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (v. 1-3) — Nancy**

#### **Story for All Ages — *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss — Susan**

#### **Advent Meditation — Seth**

**Reading — “A Poem on Hope” by Wendell Berry**

**Reflection**

**A Prayer for Hope**

**Carol — STLT #225, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 1-3) – Seth (on guitar)**

**Reading — “Making Peace” by Denise Levertov**

**Reflection**

**A Prayer for Peace**

**Carol — “Away in a Manger” – Seth (on guitar)**

**Reading — “Try to Praise the Mutilated World” by Adam Zagajewski**

## **Reflection**

### **A Prayer for Joy**

**Carol** — “O Holy Night” – **Seth (on guitar)**

**Reading** — “Bone Burying” by Andrea Gibson

## **Reflection**

### **A Prayer for Love**

**Carol** — STLT #241, “In the Bleak Midwinter” – **Seth (on guitar)**

## **Lighting the Christmas Candle — Seth**

*(all are invited to take a candle, light it from another, and form a circle around the sanctuary)* – **Susan and Macey**

**Carol** — STLT #251, “Silent Night” — **Nancy**

## **Chalice Extinguishing — Susan reads, Seth extinguishes**

*We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again. (Elizabeth Selle Jones)*

## **Benediction – Seth**

**Zoom participants:** Please feel free to stay online for a time of gathering to meet, talk, and connect. (If the group online is large enough, we will invite you to join breakout rooms for small group connection.)

**In-person participants:** Please stay for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level following the worship service.

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## **Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

## **O Holy Night**

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine! O holy night, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another  
His law is love and his gospel is peace  
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine! O holy night, O night divine!