

# ORDER OF SERVICE

December 10, 2023 • 10:00 AM • Second Sunday of Advent



## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord of hope, as night workers long for the sunrise, we long for the coming of Christ.  
In our worship today we yearn for your Spirit to give us a glimpse of your glory, that one day  
we will see in full, when all will be made new, through Christ, our Lord, our light. Amen.

## PRELUDE

Laurel Underwood, organ

## WELCOME & GREETING

Neil Trainer

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Luke 1:26–38 NLT

Doug & Sharon Wuerl

## SONG OF PRAISE “Once in Royal David’s City” #49, vv. 1–2, 4

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

**Merciful God, always with us, always coming:**

**We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.**

**We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;  
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.**

**Forgive us, God.**

**Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi,  
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them  
to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us.**

**Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. (silence for reflection)**

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*One:* The peace of Christ be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

## DOXOLOGY

## BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN & DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

## MISSIONAL MOMENT Vision House Giving Tree

Donna Miller-Parker

## OFFERING & ADVENT SONG “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” vv. 1, 3–5

## SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39–56 NRSV

Kristi Trainer

## SERMON “God in the Midst of Hope”

Neil Trainer

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## SONG OF SENDING “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” vv. 1–5

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE



**Memorial Reception for Linda Elton Today**

// Fellowship Hall after worship

Come, offer your condolences to Linda’s family – Lisa McCaslin, Linda’s daughter, and granddaughters Brianne and Meggan. Share stories and remembrances of Linda’s life, and enjoy some refreshments.

**Support Vision House this Christmas!**

Calvin is participating in the Vision House Giving Tree effort this Advent. See the display in the foyer for more information or contact [Donna Miller-Parker](#) with questions.

**12-Bells at Swanson’s Nursery**

// Today at 3 pm

**Christmas Caroling at Crista**

// This Wednesday, Dec. 13

Caroling at 4:45 pm and 5:00 pm. Enjoy hot cocoa when done! Contact [Pastor Emily](#) for more information.

**Special Service Next Week**

On Sunday, December 17 at 10 am we’ll be having a special Advent Lessons & Carols worship service of Scripture, music, and poetry. The bells will play, the Christmas choir will sing (it’s not too late to join!), and we’ll all sing some beloved Christmas carols. Don’t miss this lovely Christmas service!

**Longest Night Service**

// Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7 pm

On Sunday evening, December 17, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, we are holding a “Longest Night”

service of music, contemplation, and prayer. This service is open to everyone, but is in-person only. With selected readings and instrumental music, we will cling to God’s light in the darkness of this season – because we recognize that not everything about this time of year is merry or bright. During the service, we will bring our whole selves to God and be reminded of, and renewed in, the love and faithfulness of the God who comes near to us in Jesus and who is with us still today.



*Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from the Friday, December 16, 2022 email.*

**The Longest Night**

// by Betty Dost

Last Sunday night a small number of people gathered in our sanctuary for an hour of silence, prayer, and contemplation. In previous years this pre-Christmas evening service was known as “Blue Christmas,” but this year it was called “The Longest Night.” While the actual longest night of the year won’t arrive until December 21, the Christmas season includes many long nights for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, or for those who, due to other circumstances, find themselves unable to look forward to Christmas with a feeling of joy.

“The Longest Night” service focused on the message of Advent, when we eagerly await the coming of the Lord. The deep silence, punctuated by prayers, Scripture readings, candle lighting, and the music of stringed instruments all

reflected this theme of hope, especially for those experiencing those long nights.

Although this year I was not personally among the group of those suffering because of grief, loss, or pain, I found this service was profoundly meaningful to me. I became deeply aware of the Lord’s presence – so much so that I wanted to never leave.

Everything felt so real! He had arrived, and was ministering tenderly among us. The dark night was dissolving in the light of His love!



**Happy Birthday!**

- Mickey Julius.....Dec. 12
- Promise Rose Juengel... Dec. 15
- Kelley Neubauer ..... Dec. 15
- Connie Graebner ..... Dec. 16
- Dean Rowley.....Dec. 19
- John Claus.....Dec. 20
- Kristi Trainer.....Dec. 20
- Al Lutz.....Dec. 22



**Upcoming Events**

- Memorial Reception for Linda Elton, 11:45 am .... Today!
- 12-Bells at Swanson’s Nursery, 3 pm..... Today!
- Advent Service Project  
*Assemble Hygiene SmilePacks of toiletries for children in need.*  
..... Today–Jan. 14
- GriefShare, 10 am ..... Dec. 13
- Christmas Caroling, 4:45 pm & 5:30 pm at Crista ..... Dec. 13
- Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm ..... Dec. 13
- Advent Lessons & Carols, 10 am ..... Dec. 17
- Longest Night, 7 pm ..... Dec. 17
- Sunday Worship, 10 am... Dec. 24
- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm..... Dec. 24
- Messy Church, 5:30 pm.... Jan. 03