



DARKNESS DESCENDING

Invocation:

We worship as we live in the midst of the ONE in which darkness is held, our LOVER, BELOVED, and LOVE itself.

Music: **Darkness I** by Marney Curran

Opening Prayer:

Omicron. Atmospheric Rivers. Drowning Refugees. Divided Nations. Ruptured Families. Darkness. Darkness. And more Darkness.

O DIVINITY beyond our grasp, do you see what we see?

Can YOU feel what we feel?

Can YOU hear what we hear?

Are YOU there?

Do YOU see, feel, or hear?

Are YOU more than we imagined?

Not a singular YOU but the plural YOU?

The YOU in which we live and move and have our being?

The YOU which lives, and moves, in, with, through, and beyond us?

Then surely you can see, feel, hear, even in this Darkness.

Come quickly now!

Come to us, abide with us, see, hear, feel, and LOVE through us.

O DIVINITY beyond and yet within our Darkness, LIGHT our Way.

Here and now. Now and always. Amen.

Bidding:

O GOD We Call

Text & Music: L. Good

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn for you." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The final note of the piece is a long, sustained note in the piano part.

GENSTATING IN DARKNESS

Reading:

Psalm 139:7-14

Translated by Wilda C. Gafney

Where can I go from YOUR SPIRIT?
Or where from YOUR presence can I flee?
If I ascend to the heavens, there YOU are;
if I recline in Sheol, see, it is YOU!
If I take up dawn's wings
if I settle at the farthest reaches of the sea,
even there YOUR hand shall lead me,
and YOUR right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely darkness shall cover me,
and night will become light behind me,"
even darkness is not dark to YOU;
night is as daylight,
for dark is the same as light.
For it was YOU who crafted my inward parts;
YOU wove me together in my mother's womb,
I praise YOU, for I am awesomely and marvelously made.
Wondrous are your works;
that my soul knows full well.

Bidding:

O GOD We Call

Text & Music: L. Good

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O GOD We Call'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn for you.' The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Reflection:

Within the womb of MYSTERY, we wait.
Gestating in darkness, we fear the ending we cannot see.
Surrounded by unknown dangers, we wait.
Gestating in darkness, we dread the anticipated demise of treasured ways of being.
Longing for the light, we imagine daemons lurking in the dim recesses of life's challenges.
Gestating in darkness, we cling to feeble notions of salvation.
Grasping at old and tired prophecies, we are quick to abandon WISDOM.
Gestating in darkness, we forget the SOURCE of our fragile being.
Gulping breathes too shallow to heal us, we settle for the trivial, calming, numbness of mundane pleasures.

Chant:

O GOD of SKY and GOD of EARTH

An interpretation by William L. Wallace of the prayer Jesus taught

Music: 23rd Psalm by Bobby McFerrin



1.O God of sky and God of Earth, We hon - our your pres - ence with -
2.Give us, O God, for - giv - ing hearts Af - firm - ing each o - ther with
3.You greet us here and ev - 'ry - where, In mo - ments of one - ness and



in us and be - yond. As we eat may we share your gifts
hu - mour and with grace. May we grow be - yond nar - row needs
spac - es of de - light. To all this we now say "A - men",



of hope and com - pas - sion with all the life of Earth.
to join in the spread - ing of just and lov - ing peace.
Your song is our an - them, your dance our cos - mic joy.

faith CHAT:

SEEING in the DARK

- an opportunity to CHAT about our own darkness
- an opportunity to share the hope we see in the darkness
- finding new ways to be LOVE in these dark times
-

BLESSINGS of DARKNESS

Song:

O Holy Darkness Loving Womb

Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 45:3 Text: Jan Aldredge-Clanton

1. O Ho - ly Dark - ness, lov - ing womb, who nur - tures and cre - ates,
2. Cre - a - tive Dark - ness, clos - est friend, you whis - per in the night;
3. O Ho - ly Night of deep - est bliss, we cel - e - brate your power;
4. O Ho - ly Christ - So - phi - a, your im - age, black and fair,

Sus - tain us through the long - est night with dreams of o - pen gates.
You calm our fears as un - known paths sur - prise us with new sight.
In - fuse us with your en - er - gy that brings our seeds to flower.
Stirs us to end in - jus - tice and the wounds of Earth re - pair.

We move in - side to mys - tery that in our cen - ter dwells,
We mar - vel at your boun - ty, your gifts so full and free,
The voice out of the dark - ness ex - cites our warm - est zeal
The trea - sures of your dark - ness and rich - es of your grace

Where streams of rich - est beau - ty flow from sa - cred liv - ing wells.
Un - fold - ing as you wak - en us to new re - al - i - ty.
To bring to - geth - er dark and light, true ho - li - ness re - veal.
In - spire us to ful - fill our call, our sa - cred - ness em - brace.

The musical score consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Reflection:

Within the womb of MYSTERY, the darkness embraces, nourishes, challenges, refusing to sever the cord which sustains us, until we are ready to see the ending, we could not see beyond our fear.

Gestating in MYSTERY, we wait, for the ending which gives birth to hope.

In our waiting, the darkness tenderly enfolds us until the breaking of the waters of life.

Within this womb of MYSTERY, we wait. Amen.

Prayer:

Peering into the darkness of the world's misery, we seek the WISDOM of the HOLY ONE, so that we can nurture the LOVE the world hungers for.

Let us prepare for the birth of the LOVE gestating in, with, through, and around us.

As we wait, let us not settle for meagre mangers to receive LOVE,

but open our hearts and minds, so that in us LOVE will find a home in which to grow and thrive.

Let the SPIRIT who dwells among us stir us, move us, and open us to the cries of our neighbours.

Let the power of CHRIST move us beyond sentiment to action.

Let the LOVE which is DIVINE work through us to create justice so that, "Peace on Earth" becomes more than a holiday greeting.

Let us give birth to LOVE soon, so that all may know joy.

We pray trusting the ONE who IS our CREATOR, CHRIST, and SPIRIT to do great things in, with, through, and beyond us.

Now and always. Amen.

Music: **Darkness II** by Marney Curran

LIGHTING The WAY:

Blessing:

As you explore the contours of the darkness
in which LOVE is gestating,

do not be afraid,

for the MYSTERY holds us,

the MYSTERY works in us,

so that we can give birth to LOVE.

May you feel the MYSTERY all around you.

In darkness and in the light,

may you know the power

of our LOVER, BELOVED, and LOVE itself,

doing great things in you,

now and always. Amen.

Peace:

The Peace of LOVE is with you all!

Be LOVE in the world!

MANY THANKS to:

Our Musician Marney Curran
Assistant Videographer, Andrew Slonetsky
Reader, Carol Wegford

Music: under Licensing: #1972

Join us next Tuesday at 10am

A graphic for 'Advent Sanctuary' featuring a blue background with a lit candle on the right and bokeh light effects. The text is white and black.

**Advent
Sanctuary**

A space to retreat to during
the busyness of the season.

**VOICES IN THE
WILDERNESS**

Tuesday Dec. 7th @ 10am
Worship & CHAT over Zoom

Zoom Link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89205199552?pwd=Wjk2MGpITjVQV3VObEtWQ1U0cHhIQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 0519 9552 Passcode: 438670

A recording of our weekly Advent Sanctuary Worship and CHATS
Will be posted on our website
www.holycrosslutheran.ca