



**BLUE CHRISTMAS:  
COMFORT AND HOPE  
ON THE LONGEST NIGHT  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18**



**LET US KNOW YOU'RE HERE**

Please fill out a connection card online by scanning the QR code to the left & you will be directed to the sign-in page or by going to: [hamlinechurch.org/here](http://hamlinechurch.org/here)

**PRELUDE**

*Susan DeYoung, piano*

**WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE**

*Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard*

**OPENING MEDITATION & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

*Sharon Fields, Associate Minister of Executive Operations*

Even in our endings,  
**fill us with hope for new beginnings.**

Even as our minds race with anxiety,  
**fill us with peace that surpasses understanding.**

Even in our deepest grief,  
**fill us with joy and laughter.**

Even in a world of hate and fear,  
**fill us with your love, O God.**

Come, let us worship Emmanuel, God with us.

**HYMN 626**

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body with his love;  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

4. At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

**SCRIPTURE READING** | Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Gayle Wilcox

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

**SOLO | I WONDER AS I WANDER**

Becky Matthison

**TIME OF REFLECTION & PRAYER**

Rev. Heather Grantham

*There are slips of paper and writing utensils in your seat for any prayers you would like to put in words. We will collect these prayers at the end of our service and pray for them this week. If you are joining us online, I invite you to type your prayers into the chat. For prayers that are too deep for words, or for prayers that you prefer to keep in your heart alone, we invite you to light a candle. We will hold each of these prayers, too, trusting that God knows the depths of our hearts.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** | Kyrie set to the tune from The New World Symphony

Dvorak  
*Music for the Soul Small Group Participants  
directed by Laura Coale*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Sally Johnson

**SUNG RESPONSE**

*So together we sing...*  
**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our God, 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, forever. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** | Isaiah 43:16-21

This is what the LORD says—  
the one who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,  
Who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:  
“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.  
The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,  
the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

**SILENCE**

**WORDS OF COMFORT / AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The first words of Genesis tell us that in the beginning, God was creating.

**We believe in a God who is at work in all our beginnings.**

In Revelation, we hear Jesus proclaim, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

**We believe in a Savior who is with us through it all,  
in every beginning, and in every ending that comes before.**

And so from beginning to end, from Genesis to Revelation, from the first day to the last, we are held by our God who knows our name.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**HYMN 221**

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels may have  
gathered there  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air  
But only His mother in her maiden bliss  
Worshiped the Beloved  
With a kiss

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Susan DeYoung and Gayle Wilcox, piano duet*

***All are welcome to join us after worship in the community room for a light meal of soup and bread.***

**MUSIC FOR THE SOUL SMALL GROUP**

Laura Coale (musician, performer, and Hamline Church alto section leader) has been leading a small group this holiday season, exploring the Soul's connection to music. This group has shared music with one another and held space for deep conversation and connection. Laura will offer this small group again during Lent so keep your eyes (and ears!) open for more information.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Susan DeYoung, Gayle Wilcox, Paul Wilcox, Dave Anderson, Becky Mathison, Kaif Bryant

**JOIN US TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:**

**5:00pm | Candlelight & Carols**

**10:00pm | Candlelight & Communion**

Pre-service concert music 20 minutes before worship.  
Livestream available for 5pm at [hamlinechurch.org/live-stream](https://hamlinechurch.org/live-stream)

## THIS WEEK AT HAMLINE CHURCH

- WED **5:00PM | BLUE CHRISTMAS: COMFORT AND HOPE ON THE LONGEST NIGHT**  
Soup & Bread Supper in the Community Room
- 6:00PM - 7:00PM | House Band Rehearsal**
- 7:00PM - 9:00PM | Chancel Choir Rehearsal**
- SAT **11:00AM | MUSIC & ARTS: AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**
- 7:00PM | MUSIC & ARTS: AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**
- SUN **8:55AM | CENTERING PRAYER** (chapel)
- 9:00AM | FAITH & FELLOWSHIP** (parlor)
- 9:15AM | CENTERING PRAYER** (via text)
- 10:00AM | WORSHIP - ADVENT 4**
- 11:00AM | COFFEE HOUR**



Advent marks both endings and beginnings, symbolizing the close of the calendar year and the start of a new church year, while Christ's birth heralds new ways of living amidst a world in constant motion. This Advent series offers blessings and reminders rooted in fundamental faith truths, guiding us through a sacred new chapter and emphasizing that love is always the foundation for new beginnings.

December 22 | Advent 4: 10:00am  
December 24 | Christmas Eve Services: 5:00pm & 10:00pm

During the Advent series follow along with a devotional - copies available to take home in the office or email Heather (hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org) to get a digital copy.

### AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

THIS Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 11:00am & 7:00pm  
The story of a magic star, a shepherd boy, and how unselfish love can work miracles. Gian Carlo Menotti's holiday opera of the ages, for all ages is sure to delight and inspire you this holiday season. Directed by Penelope Freeh and David Kozisek featuring the Hamline Church Festival Chorus, soloists, and dancers. *\$15 adults, kids are free.*  
Get tickets at the door or here: [bit.ly/Hamline\\_Amahl](https://bit.ly/Hamline_Amahl)

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## WELCOME TO HAMLINE

Welcome to Hamline Church! To those who are worshipping here for the first time, or who have returned after an absence, we greet you with joy. Your presence enriches this time of celebration. May all experience God as we worship.



### Are children welcome here?

Yes! Children are always welcome in worship. Coloring and reading supplies are available near the Commons doors, and in the narthex. We have a quieter space available to all in the chapel off the narthex.

## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WORSHIP TODAY...

### When do I stand?

\* Please stand if you are able for titles marked with a star \*

### When do I speak?

Words in "Bold" print are for everyone.

### Where is this hymn?

Hymns with 2 or 3 numbers are in the hard cover UMC hymnal. Hymns with 4 numbers are in the soft-cover *The Faith We Sing* hymnal.

### Where is the restroom?

There are restrooms just through the commons at the top of the stairs. There are more restrooms downstairs below the front doors.

A quiet low sensory space is available to all in the chapel off the narthex.



**Assistive listening devices** are available for use, or you can connect through wifi and use your own hearing aid or headset. Please see a greeter if you need assistance.

## WAYS TO GIVE

Your offering helps support the mission and ministry of Hamline Church. There are many ways to make your contribution:

- Place offerings in the boxes after worship.
- Online giving: QR code or [hamlinechurch.org/give](https://hamlinechurch.org/give)
- Checks can be mailed to the church.
- Text to Give: Text HamlineChurch1514G\$100 to 73256.  
Give in any increment you choose by entering the amount after the \$.

Thank you for your generosity!  
Questions? Please visit [hamlinechurch.org/give](https://hamlinechurch.org/give)



HAMLINE CHURCH  
UNITED METHODIST



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