



## **CENTRAL SAANICH UNITED CHURCH**

Worship: Rev. Bob Gilbert

Music Director: Amy Nold

Secretary: Tara Houle

Office Hours: 10 am to 2 pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Address: 7180 East Saanich Rd

Saanichton BC V8M 1Y4

Phone: 250-652-2713

Office e-mail: [officecsuc@shaw.ca](mailto:officecsuc@shaw.ca)

Website: [www.centralsaanichunited.ca](http://www.centralsaanichunited.ca)

Facebook: [Central Saanich United Church](#)

**Central Saanich United Church**

***United Church of Canada***

***Blue Christmas Service – December 18, 2022***

**Welcome**

**Call To Worship**

**Gathering Music:** Lark Ascending *violinist – Nicola Benedetti*

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn:** “Where Two or Three Are Gathered” MV 14

**A Reflection**

**Sung Response:** “Take, O Take Me as I Am” MV 85 (2x)

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**Candle for Love**

**Sung Response:** “Take, O Take Me as I Am” MV 85 (2x)

**Scripture:** John 11:33-35

**Candle for Loss**

**Sung Response:** “Take, O Take Me as I Am” MV 85 (2x)

**Scripture:** Psalm 28:7-8

**Candle for Strength**

**Sung Response:** “Don’t Be Afraid” MV 90 (2x)

**Scripture:** Job 14:7

## **Candle for Hope**

**Sung Response:** “ Don’t Be Afraid”

MV 90 (2x)

**Scripture:** Luke 1:41-45

## **Candle for Joy**

**Sung Response:** “Cradle Me in Your Arms”

MV 91 (2x)

**Scripture:** John 8:12

## **Candle for Christ**

**Sung Response:** “Cradle Me in Your Arms”

MV 91 (2x)

**Solo:** In You There Is a Refuge *Words: Keri K. Wehlander*  
*Music: Linnea Good*

## **Lighting Candles of Remembrance**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

When it is hard to see the way ahead,  
**you are the Spirit that brings light, Loving God.**  
*(Time of silent reflection)*

When life lacks zest or purpose, and we long for the person who is lost,  
**you are the Spirit that brings courage, Loving God.**  
*(Time of silent reflection)*

When we know of loved ones or family members who are hurting,  
**you are the Spirit that enables us to listen and console, Loving God.**  
*(Time of silent reflection)*

When we look back to good times that are over and gone,  
**you are the Spirit that revives significant memories  
and enables us to share them, Loving God.**

*(Time of silent reflection)*

As we remember those in our faith community who have suffered loss,  
**you are the Spirit that calls us to ask the simple question, “How can  
we help them?”**

*(Time of silent reflection)*

As we think of those refugees without hope worldwide, people at risk in  
their Ukrainian homes or other crying need,  
**you, Loving God, are the Spirit of compassion that compels us to  
speak and act to bring change.**

And Loving God, when your Spirit seems gone from us,  
**you give us the blessing of Jesus crucified and risen,  
the pledge of your presence in time and beyond time.  
Amen**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn:** Once in Royal David’s City

VU 63

### **Benediction**

**Going Forth:** Da Pacem Cordium  
(Give peace to ev’ry heart)

MV 86 (3X)

### **Postlude**


*(the major resource for this service is “A Longest Night” by Jamie Miller in  
the United Church of Canada publication, Gathering, Advent (Year A), 2022, p. 70-71.)*

---

*Please refer to our website for Upcoming Events in our Community*  
[www.centrialsaanichunited.ca](http://www.centrialsaanichunited.ca)

OR

*follow us*

 *Central Saanich United Church*

 Central Saanich United Church Online Worship