

Return of the Light

A WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION
Amistad Chapel, UCC Church House
December 14 & 15, 2007

- Holy God, open unto me light in my darkness,
Courage for my fear, hope for my despair.
- loving God, open unto me wisdom for my confusion,
Forgiveness for my sins, love for my hate.
- God of hope, open unto me peace for my turmoil,
Joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness.
- generous God, open my heart to receive all your gifts.
—Howard Thurman

Program

A WINTRY GATHERING
(tune: Adoro te Devoto)

PROCESSION OF THE SUN
(tune: Piae Cantiones)

SOLSTICE INVOCATION

- One: This is the night of the solstice, the longest night of the year. For now darkness triumphs, but soon shall it wane and give way to light.
- All: Blessed be the darkness. Blessed be the blanket of the longest night. Blessed may we be as we seek the rebirthing of light, and to be bearers of the Light.

WELCOME: THE SHAPING OF OUR TRADITIONS
(tune: Coventry Carol)

Blessed be this, the darkest night,
bearer of winter's grace,
though shadows grow and hope fades dim;
still we seek God's embrace.

STORY OF HOPE
"The Itsy Bitsy Spider"

SONG FOR PEACE
“What Light is This?”
(tune: Greensleeves)

PRAYER FOR PEACE
“In the Bleak Midwinter”

PEACE CANDLE LIGHTING

THE RETURN OF THE LIGHT

BE THE LIGHT
“Sussex Carol”

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HOSTS  
Gwen Thomas and Hannah Jessie

OIKOS ENSEMBLE  
Angela Lynard, vocals   Cliff Aerie, saxophones   Chris Bakriges, piano  
Bryan Thomas, bass   Ricky Exton, percussion

GUEST VOCALIST  
Annie Congress

DANCE/CHOREOGRAPHY  
Melissa Lopez

INSIDE/OUT STORYTELLERS  
Ron Dauphin, Angela Lynard, Andy Lang

VIDEOGRAPHY  
Bob Lormor

AUDIO ENGINEER  
Mike De Lucca

DIRECTOR  
Cliff Aerie

***Return of the Light*** is produced by MICA (Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts),  
a program of the United Church of Christ’s Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team.