

C 5851 CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT!

Farrell/Arr. Raney

SATB w/opt. 7 Handbells
& Congregation

Performance/Accompaniment CD — C 5851C

THE JOEL RANEY
CHORAL SERIES

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by

Bernadette Farrell

Setting by

Joel Raney

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A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

For S.A.T.B. Voices, Readers and Piano Accompaniment,
with optional 7 Handbells and Congregation

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL
Setting by
JOEL RANEY

7 Bells used: D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6 & C7

Lilting gently (♩ = 126)
(+ HB)
E m A m D G

Piano *mp*

5 E m A m D E m

10 All Voices Unison *mp*

* 1. Long - ing for light, — we wait in dark - ness.
2. Long - ing for peace, — our world is trou - bled.
3. Long - ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry.
4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple,

(- HB)
E m A m D E m

*Verse 1 to be sung for the First Sunday of Advent, vs. 2 - Second Sunday of Advent, vs. 3 - Third Sunday of Advent, vs. 4 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, vs. 5 - Christmas Eve

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14

Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
 Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
 Long - ing for wa - ter man - y still thirst.
 Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.

A m D E m

18 S.T.
A.B.

Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
 Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
 Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
 Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er.

A m D E m

22 All Voices Unison

light for the world to see.
 Make us your liv - ing voice.
 shared un - til all are fed.
 walls made of liv - ing stone.
 mak - ing your king - dom come.

A m D 11 D 9

Christ, Be Our Light!

CHORUS

26 S.A. *f* (+ HB)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

T.B. *f*

(+ Congregation)

G G^{sus} G E m B m E m

f

32

dark - ness. Christ, be our light!

A m D G G^{sus} E m

37

Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.

G/D C2 D7^{sus} D G (- Congregation)

Christ, Be Our Light!

Responsive Litany begins here - Text on Pgs. 6 & 7
Freely (*Handbells tacet until m. 68*)

(Piano underscores Responsive Litany and Candle Lighting)

48

F m7 Gsus G C m G m/B^b A m7(b5)

Candle Lighting begins here
Text on Pgs. 6 & 7

53 D7 G m G m C m6

The musical score for measures 53-56 of 'The Sound of Silence' is shown. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 53 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff has a whole note chord of D7 (F, A, C) and a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F). The bass staff has a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F) and a whole note chord of C m6 (Bb, D, F). Measure 54 has a treble staff with a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F) and a whole note chord of C m6 (Bb, D, F). The bass staff has a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F) and a whole note chord of C m6 (Bb, D, F). Measure 55 has a treble staff with a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F) and a whole note chord of C m6 (Bb, D, F). The bass staff has a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F) and a whole note chord of C m6 (Bb, D, F). Measure 56 has a treble staff with a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F) and a whole note chord of C m6 (Bb, D, F). The bass staff has a whole note chord of Gm (Bb, D, F) and a whole note chord of C m6 (Bb, D, F).

(repeat as needed)

*(repeat as needed until
Candle Lighting is finished,
then segue to page 8, m. 64)*

Christ, Be Our Light!

FIRST SUNDAY - Hope for Those Who Wait*Responsive Litany*

Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time.

How long, O Lord, how long?

For those waiting for answered prayer:

Grant your steadfast patience.

For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.

For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14)

SECOND SUNDAY - Hope for Those Who Are Weary*Responsive Litany*

The Light shines in the darkness,

but the darkness has not overcome it.

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

THIRD SUNDAY - Hope for Those Who Are Watching*Responsive Litany*

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

FOURTH SUNDAY - *Hope for Those Who Are Wounded*

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For relationships left in decay and neglect:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

CHRISTMAS EVE - *Hope for Those Who Are Willing*

Responsive Litany

Our Savior's birth is celebrated with bold faith.

May our hearts be willing.

Like Mary, who showed humble surrender:

May our hearts be willing.

Like Joseph, who exhibited unconditional trust:

May our hearts be willing.

Like the shepherds, who displayed awestruck wonder:

May our hearts be willing.

Like the angels, who sang glorious praise:

May our hearts be willing.

For all who are willing to receive the gift of the Savior born in Bethlehem:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

Tonight we light all the candles. The **first candle** is the hope shining for those worn thin by times of waiting. The **second candle** is the hope shining for those worn down with wearied souls. The **third candle** captures the hopeful expectation of those eagerly watching for God's glory in our day. The **fourth candle** is the hope of a new tomorrow shining for those seeking freedom from the wounds of this world. Tonight, we light the **Christ candle**. This candle radiates the hope of Jesus Christ to all who are willing to receive it.

64 E^b $A m7(b5)$ $A m$ $Dsus$ $D7$

CHORUS

68 f

Christ, be our light! Shine in our

f

(+ Cong. & H.B.) G $Gsus$ G $E m$

72

hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

$B m$ $E m$ $A m$ D

Christ, Be Our Light!

76

Christ, be our light! Shine in your

G Gsus E m G/D

80

slowing to end

Church gath - ered to - day.

C2 D7sus D G

slowing to end

84

mp

Christ, be our light!

mp

(- Cong.) Eb F(add9) G

Christ, Be Our Light!

CLOSING PRAYER

FIRST SUNDAY

God of all creation, we declare that you are the Eternal One. We confess to you, O Lord, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY

God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY

God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY

Merciful God, Advent reminds us that you left heaven's majesty to walk among wounded people in a broken world. We thank you that your love knows no boundaries or limitations. No wound of this earth is greater than the wounds you came to heal. For all who suffer this day, light the way, O Lord, towards the promise of healing and wholeness made known in you. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, you are the hope for our hurting and broken world. We thank you, O God, for guiding us through this season of Advent, shining your light in the midst of our darkness. As your birth lit up the Bethlehem sky, continue to shine in our world by dispelling darkness, binding up the broken, and calling forth the faithful. On this holiest of nights, make us willing to welcome you as our Savior and Lord. We pray this in the name of our newborn king. Amen

Christ, Be Our Light!

HANDBELLS

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

7 Bells used: D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6 & C7

Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELLSetting by
JOEL RANEY

Lilting gently (♩ = 126)

The score is written for seven handbells in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of several systems of music. The first system (measures 1-7) is marked *mp*. The second system (measures 8-28) includes a **VERSE** section (measures 10-25, marked **16**) and a **CHORUS** section (measures 26-28, marked *f*). The third system (measures 29-35) continues the melody. The fourth system (measures 36-41) includes a melodic line with a slur over measures 40 and 41. The fifth system (measures 42-55) is a **Responsive Litany** section (measures 42-55, marked **14**) and a **Candle Lighting** section (measures 56-63, marked **8**), both with repeat signs and the instruction "(repeat as needed)". The sixth system (measures 64-67) is marked **4**. The seventh system (measures 68-73) is a **CHORUS** section (measures 68-73, marked *f*). The eighth system (measures 74-79) continues the melody. The ninth system (measures 80-87) includes a melodic line with a slur over measures 82 and 83, followed by a section marked **3** (measures 84-86) and a final measure (87) marked *mp*.

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Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your
Church gath - ered to - day.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

Bernadette Farrell's hymn presents a world yearning for the light of Jesus's birth. The purpose of this arrangement of "Christ, Be Our Light!" is to support the lighting of the Advent candles. It includes a choral opening that features a separate verse for every week of Advent plus one for Christmas Eve, followed by a refrain that can be shared by the congregation. A call and response litany is next, and then a reading to be recited with the lighting of each candle (all with piano underscore). At the conclusion of the candle lighting, the choir finishes with the hymn refrain once more. Each weekly ceremony concludes with a closing prayer. The litanies and prayers, as well as all as the parts for the congregation and handbells, may be reproduced.

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