

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024

**“Creator of the Stars of Night”**

(ELW 245, Verse 1)

Creator of the stars of night,  
your people’s everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.

Many of you know that Scott and I spend about four months out of the year at our cabin in Northern Wisconsin. It is located “in the middle of nowhere” which means that the evening stars are absolutely brilliant. Millions of them! So close! One would think that you can almost reach out and touch them.

Our hymn “Creator of the Stars at Night” captures Advent’s mystery and power of our God who is the creator of the universe... yet a God who pays attention to individual humans. It makes no sense that the divine being who strung the stars up in the skies would hear the call of a single, anguished (or joyful, or tired, or relieved, or grateful) human heart. And yet, that’s what we see time and again in Scripture. Genesis 15 tells the story of Abraham standing outside under the night sky, unable to count the stars, trying to comprehend the immensity of God’s promise that his heir will be his offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky. Yet he believed God’s promise, and his faith was acknowledged as righteousness.

*Dear Father, we are amazed at the immensity of your power and promises. Even when our lives seem small, there is enough light in the darkness to find our way. Bring us into your everlasting light. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.*

Beth Johnson

