

Order of Worship

THE LONGEST NIGHT

6:00 pm – December 21, 2022

PRELUDE

Peaceful Meditation
Used with permission
Lance Crane, Organ

Paul Fey

SCRIPTURE

John 1: 1-5 (NRSV)

HYMN

Holy Darkness (X2)

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Holy darkness, blessed night, heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await You, O God of silence, we embrace Your holy night.

GREETING

HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the light (vs 1)
CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song #89848

UMH 206

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

PRAYER

God of Light and Darkness: on this long night we gather in the twilight of the year, seeking Your presence.
We meet one another in the midst of sorrow and suffering, trusting that You are with us, even now.
Just as Mary and Joseph journeyed through the uncertainty and pain of that first Christmas,
We too come bearing our hopes and fears, trusting that You will prepare a way for us.
Meet us now, in this Holy Darkness, with Your comfort and peace.
Give us strength for this journey, knowing that we are not alone. Amen.

(Rev. Erin Maddox McPhee, 2022)

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 3)
Words: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868 Public Domain.
Music: Lewis H. Rednew, 1868 Public Domain.

UMH 230

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

PASTORAL PRAYER

*We light four candles tonight – one for our grief, one for our courage,
one for our memories, and one for our love.*

HYMN*Light One Candle*

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1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.
2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.
3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.
4. Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139: 1-12 (NRSV)

Luke 1:68-79 (NRSV)

The Word of God, for the People of God. **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE

Pastor Matt

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Bleak Midwinter
Bell Choir & Chancel Choir

arr. Jason W. Krug

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COMMUNION**LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Stay With Us
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A Stable Lamp is Lighted

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24th



Family Service - 4:30 PM

Candlelight and Communion Service - 7:30 PM