

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE



December 18, 2025 — 6 PM
Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church
Southern Pines, North Carolina

The Longest Night Service

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jeff Ward and Gena Smith

Friends, in this Advent season, we light the candle of hope.

Tonight, we light this candle for all who feel hopeless.

Tonight, this light shines bright for patients and prisoners; for those grieving and hurting; for the poor and downtrodden.

May God's hope find them now.

In this season, we light the candle of peace.

Tonight, we light this candle for all who need peace.

This light shines bright for the anxious and unsettled; for the fearful and forlorn; for the lost.

May God's peace find them now.

In this season, we light the candle of joy.

Tonight, we light this candle for all who need joy.

May this light shine for the overburdened and overstretched, the worn out and worn down.

May God's joy find them now.

In this season, we light the candle of love.

Tonight, we light this candle for all who need love.

May this light shine for loved ones lost; for the neglected or forgotten, and for the lonely.

May God's love find them now.

We give thanks to our God of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

+Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1,2,6 & 7

Poetry Reading

Kathy McPherson

First Coming by Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,

till men and nations were at peace.

He came when the Heavens were unsteady,

+Please Stand, if you are able.

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and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.
He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Musical Meditation *Breath of Heaven* arr. Larson
Liz Cox, soprano | Erin Sheppard, alto

Scripture Readings

Psalm 130 Trish Harris
John 14:18-19; 25-27 Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin

Meditation

Lighting our Prayers Rev. John Hage

Anthem In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Larry Shackley
Quartet

Closing Prayer

+Hymn 124 *Still, Still, Still* Still, Still, Still

Benediction Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin

Postlude



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care you'll receive is confidential, free and very helpful. To learn how you or a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative can receive care, please contact Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Connection at elizabeth@brownsonchurch.org or one of our Stephen Leaders: Jeff Ward at jeffrey.ward3@gmail.com or Gerald Ostlund at gerald.ostlund@gmail.com.

Worship Leaders:

Rev. John Hage, *Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin, *Associate Pastor*
*for Congregational Care and Connection***

Amy Shortt, *Director of Music Ministries and Organist*

BROWNSON
MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A missional community called to love and live in Christ



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