



Welcome to worship! No matter where you are, where you have been, or where you are on your faith journey, our prayer is that you will find a place to belong in worship and mission with us.

December 21, 2021

Longest Night Service

7:00 pm

Greeting and Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

All around us, lights are lit and carols play.

The season heaps joy upon us.

Yet, we who come here, we carry more than joy; we carry loss, worry, grief and pain.

We come weary, seeking rest from expectations. We also seek a holy presence to be with us.

We come to this place, by the resilient grace of God: love that never lets go.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 230

Prayer of Approach

We gather this night, to remember...

those who have touched our lives,
glad memories and happy stories,
and love that we hold dear.

We name those who have been life itself to us.

We gather in the name of Jesus,
vulnerable as an infant,
joyful and happy as a youth,
wise and caring as an adult.

We gather in the presence of God, who brings life and light to all.

All life is precious in God's sight.

No one is ever alone or forgotten.

Come, let us gather in the Spirit of hope and peace.

We worship, in the name of joy and love. Amen.

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

No. 218

Losing One We Love Isaiah 40:1, 6–8

Prayer

Holy One, you are with us in times of trouble and in times of peace;
in times of sorrow and times of joy.

When we are unsure of how to continue living and loving,
your Spirit intervenes with sighs too deep for words.

Speak for us now, Loving God.

Comfort us with your abiding peace... *(silence)*

Healing and Memory Psalm 139:7–12

Prayer

God of all, when we feel alone, you draw nearer;
when we lose our footing, you guide us toward a good path.

Through the ages, you have promised to be a comfort to your people,
and you call us to be a comfort to others.

In all our living, may we never lose the memory
of our most cherished relationships,

and may we feel the courage and strength you offer to us
through those who surround us... *(silence)*

Living with Hope and Love John 14:1–4, 18–19

Prayer

God of hope and joy, you prepare our hearts for renewal.

You till the soil of our lives and nurture small shoots of possibility.

Even when we are unsure, you repeat your promise:

I will never leave you.

Open us, Holy One, to your promise.

Hold us in your care.

Strengthen us for your future.

Guide us in anticipation and faith... *(silence)*

Special Music *Day Is Done, But Love Unfailing*

Remembering in Hope

We light a candle in memory of those who gave us birth,
who nurtured us, offered love, and cherished us.

**We remember mothers and fathers,
guardians and grandparents,
and all our family through the ages.**

We light a candle in memory of those
who have been joined to us in the great circle of family.

**We remember sisters and brothers,
aunts, uncles, and cousins,
those near to us and far away.**

We light a candle in memory of those who have left us
before we expected, those we hold dear,
and with whom we still walk in our dreams.

**We remember children and grandchildren,
those who leaped within the womb
and who danced upon the earth.**

We light a candle in memory of those whom we came to know through the eyes of love.
We hold sacred the faces and memories of years past,
of those who brightened our days and lit up our lives.

**We remember husbands and wives,
dearest loves and closest friends,
who changed our lives forever.**

We light a candle in memory of those who shared in our lives
in many ways, who worked with us
and made our lives more enjoyable.

We remember friends and neighbours.

We light a candle for those we do not know, O God,
who, like us, have suffered loss, who live with grief,
who long for peace and justice,
who long for friendship and healing.

We remember your people, of every time and place.

Finally, we leave one candle unlit,
mindful of the great truth of this life,
that in the fullness of time we, too,
will join our loved ones in a realm without sorrow and pain,
in the company of Unending Love.

**For these and all your children, we give thanks
for life, hope and courage. Amen.**

Sharing Christ's Light

Carol

Silent Night

No. 239

Benediction

**Adapted from the United Church of Canada service.*

Worship Assistants today:

Song Leader: Kathy Brown
Tech Support: Jamie Hannah

Organist: Gloria Cardoni
Sound Tech: Arthur Sievers



Our Staff:

Pastor: Kathy Bueker Sweet
Director of Music: Kathy Brown

Office Manager: Mary Catherine St. John
Director of Family Ministries: Melanie Burger

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Office Hours--Monday-Thursday 9 am - 12 noon
Live Radio Broadcast 8:30 a.m. WCZQ 105.5 FM
Worship: 8:30a in person and Facebook Live
10:45a in person