



Longest Night Service
December 21, 2025 4 pm

Longest Night Service, Winter Solstice

For many, the Christmas season is a time for family gatherings, joyous celebrations, feasting with friends, sharing gifts, and singing songs. Yet others may struggle to find joy amid loss, illness, loneliness, or anxiety. People who are struggling may feel isolated or guilty for not being able to be joyful while holding heavy burdens. Tonight's service acknowledges this tension and creates a space for that sadness to be named and tended in community.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

All things were made by God, and without God nothing came to be.

What came to be through God was life, and this life was the light of the world.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Opening Prayer

Hymn "Love Has Come" see slides/insert

Lighting of the Christ Candle

“The light shines in the darkness,

And the darkness has not overcome it."

Thanksgiving for Light

At the beginning of time, you called forth the light.

You brought the morning on the first day and every morning after that.

You filled the night with millions of stars.

Each tiny sparkle is a promise that we are counted among your people.

You appeared in the flames of a bush that burned without being consumed.

And lifted your people out of the shadows of death and into the light of life.

You sent Jesus, your son, to be the light of the world.

He is hope for the hopeless and light for the lost.

Shine in our hearts this night as we hear the good news of your coming.

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20

Reflection "A Light Shines in the Darkness"

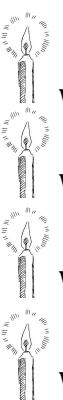
Hymn "Imagine"

Holding and Remembering

*Come forward to light a candle if you wish.
Healing prayer and anointing are offered.*

Litany of Remembrance

We will sing a verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (#61) after each candle is lit.



We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. (v. 1)

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss. (v. 2)

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss. (v. 2)

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time (v. 6)

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. (v. 6)

We light this fourth candle to remember the pain of the world. (v. 7)

Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Gentle God, be with us in the waiting.

Wrap your arms around us in love and teach us to trust that a new day is coming.

Be a lamplight in the darkness of our night and protect us from danger until a new day dawns.

All this we pray in the name of your son, the light of the world, who taught us to pray, saying,

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

see slides/insert

Concluding Prayer and Benediction

Postlude

Leading in This Evening's Service

Worship Leaders: Pastor Matt Paul, Rev. Bennie Grace Nabua

Pianist/Organist: Anna Nichols

Media: Wayne Brown *Slides:* Lauren Corder

