

Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 21, 2022
5:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church
11 Washington St., Cumberland, MD

PRELUDE

THE COVENTRY CAROL TRADITIONAL
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (*Unison*)

God, we bring to You our grief- our own and the grief of others in the world. Although we may know You are with us as much in the dark as in the light, we admit we often feel left in the dark-alone, angry, and fearful. Remind us tonight as You have reminded all people through all ages that You are Emmanuel, God-with-us. You join us and continue loving us in our loneliness, anger, and fear. May we allow You to be with us, to be our Provider, Healer, Comforter, and Friend in the darkest of times. Amen.

VOICES FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 42:3; Psalm 42:5-6a; Lamentations 3:17-18; Lamentations 3:21-24

HYMN #543

GOD, BE THE LOVE TO SEARCH AND KEEP ME
God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

"GREEN TYLER"

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

VOICES FROM SCRIPTURE

Mark 15: 33-35; John 14:27-28a; John 16:33; Revelation 21:4

SILENCE: OFFERING UP OUR PRAYERS

(We know that God hears the deepest cries of our hearts. In the silence let us offer to God all that is weighing us down. After a time of silent prayer, we will join in a time of reflective singing. We sing to remember that God is near.)

SUNG RESPONSE:

WAIT FOR THE LORD

90

Wait for the Lord

(Psalm 27)

Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SUNG RESPONSE:

WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT

“DANS NOS OBSCURITÉS

294 Within Our Darkest Night

Dans nos obscurités

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a series of quarter and eighth notes. Above the first staff, the chords B and Em are indicated. The lyrics are: "With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the fire that nev-er dies a-way, nev-er dies a-way. With-in our dark-est night, you kin-dle the fire that nev-er dies a-way, nev-er dies a-way." The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics. The third staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. Below the third staff, the chords AIII, D, EIII, AIII, D, EIII, AIII, D are indicated.

“A BLESSING FOR THE LONGEST NIGHT”

by Jan Richardson

HYMN #

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

BENEDICTION

LEAVING IN SHARED SILENCE

(You are invited to exit the sanctuary at your own pace in silence.)

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Fr. Ryan Viands, St. Paul Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. John Reardon, Emmanuel Episcopal
Rev. Alison Peters, First Presbyterian Church
Judith Brown, Director of Music Ministries, First Presbyterian Church