

The Longest Night ❖ December 21, 2025 ❖ 4 pm



Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

❖ St. Augustine

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* 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.**

* Opening Prayer

* Hymn 110

Love has Come

*1 Love has come: a light in the
darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem
skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*2 Love is born! Come, share in the
wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she
whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

Thanksgiving for light in the darkness

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.

Illumine us that we might dream of your coming kin-dom and be at peace.

✦ Word

Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

Luke 2:1-20

Meditation

Litany of Remembrance

We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost.

Hymn 88 v.1

**“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.**

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss.

**“O come thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time.

**O come thou day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy 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.**

We light this fourth candle to remember the pain of the world.

**O come desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease.
Fill the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

✦ Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The 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 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.**

Communion

Prayer after Communion

✦ Sending

* Hymn 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

*1 While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.*

*2 With power and glory, come;
with power and glory, come. (Refrain)*

*Refrain:
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.*

*3 Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come. (Refrain)*

* Blessing

You are invited to linger in the sanctuary to pray. Pastor Daniel and several deacons are available for prayer and support. Thanks to Ann French and Linda Allen for their musical leadership. Parts of this evening's liturgy are adapted from The Presbyterian Outlook.