



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

**December 21, 2014, 5 p.m.
Longest Night Service**

Welcome!

(Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices.)

Order of Worship

****Call to Worship**

L: From the corners of the world, from the confusion of life,

P: Gather us O God

L: From the loneliness of our hearts,

P: Gather us, O God.

****Hymn #82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Reading:

John 1: 1-5

Homily

A Liturgy of Remembering and Redeeming

One: This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, the memories that bind them to us in this season.

All: May God's eternal love surround them.
(Silence)

One: This second candle we light to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

All: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.
(Silence)

(Service continued on back of page).



One: We light the third candle to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember the One who shows the Way, who brings the Truth and who bears the Light.
(Silence)

One: We light the fourth candle to ask God to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we may receive the gift of peace.

All: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.
(Silence)

Solo *Gabriel's Oboe* *E. Morricone*
Laura Yawney, oboe and Lorri Yawney, piano

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

****Hymn #114** *Away in a Manger*

****Closing Litany**

L: Child of the manger, healing our pain, sharing our weakness,

P: Stay with us now.

L: Stay with us in our frailty, stay with us on our journey,

P: Walk beside us, live within us, lead us to glory, lead us home. Amen.

(You are invited to remain in the sanctuary as long as you wish. May God's comfort and peace be with you in this Christmas Season and beyond.)

Merry Christmas from

 **Christ Memorial**
Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Services at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

All Are Welcome!

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