

Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 19, 2021



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: Matthew 1:18-23

Homily

A Litany 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 is 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)

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 receive the gift of peace.

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

(Silence)

Solo

Healer of Our Every Ill

M. Haugen

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

Hymn #115 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 this space as long as you wish. May God's comfort and peace be with you in this Christmas Season and beyond.)