



Service of the Longest Night
December 12, 2021
5:00 p.m. In-Person and Facebook Live Service

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church's Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor	Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Larry Patterson, Office Administrator	Chuck Byam, Organist
Ben Sackett, Custodian	Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Rev Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator	Nicole Finney, Child Care
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	

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SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT

(Adapted with permission from Rev. Nicolette Siragusa)

WELCOME

Welcome to this evening's Longest Night service, as we worship God and acknowledge that our feelings around the holidays are often complex. Together, we will light candles for ourselves, and for those we know who need more light in their lives.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit,

People: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn,

People: For they will be comforted.

Leader: Blessed are the meek,

People: For they will inherit the earth.

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

People: For they will be filled.

Leader: Blessed are the merciful,

People: For they will receive mercy.

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart,

People: For they will see God.

LITANY OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT

Voice 1: We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, thoughtfully.

Voice 2: In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was nurtured and made ready for the journey into light.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Voice 1: It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe – blankets of stars, the glowing of distant planets.

Voice 2: The darkness of the night sky allowed the Magi to follow a star to the Christ-child.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Voice 1: In the darkness of night, desert peoples find relief from the cruel, relentless heat of the sun.

Voice 2: In the blessed desert darkness, Mary and Joseph escaped with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

All: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Voice 1: In the darkness of sleep, we are restored and renewed. We allow our fears and concerns, our hopes and visions rise to the surface, and listen in the quiet for a still, small voice.

