

THE LONGEST NIGHT (BLUE XMAS)

Worship Leader-Ramie Beck, Elder Mel Adams,
Music- Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

Prelude Regina Kellogg

Call to Worship Ramie Beck

Prayer of the People Mark Willis

Voices from Scripture Mark Willis and Ramie Beck

HYMN OF HOPE CONGREGATION

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” Chalice Hymnal #102 (All)

First Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Ramie Beck

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Second Scripture Reading: Psalm 22 Mark Willis

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day but you do not answer,

and by night, but I find no rest.
In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and you delivered them.
It was you who brought me from the womb,
you who kept me safe on my mother's breast.
Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.
Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted.
God does not hide from me.
When I cry to God, God hears me.
Thanks be to God.

Congregational Scriptural Response – Psalm 23

Congregation

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

HYMN OF PEACE

CONGREGATION

“It is Well” Chalice Hymnal #561 vs1,2,4

Litany of Remembrance

Pastor Mark and Worship Leader and Congregation

During this litany of remembrance, the congregation will be responding and singing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Chalice Hymnal#119 vs 1,3,4.

PASTOR: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

CONGREGATION: We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.

ALL SING:

**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.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORSHIP LEADER: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

CONGREGATION: We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future.

ALL SING:

**O come thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PASTOR: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness; and in knowledge of our own mortality.

CONGREGATION: We remember that though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have turned away from the light, the light itself has not failed. We remember that though winter be upon us and though the nights be dark, with the turning of the Wheel the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.

ALL SING:

O come thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here

**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORSHIP LEADER: We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the stories of Hanukkah and of Christmas, which both also began in abandonment, insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable. We remember that the loving God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

CONGREGATION: We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.

ALL SING:

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Mark Willis

The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

The Gloria Patri

Congregation

**Glory be to the Father
And to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning
Is now and ever shall be
World without end, amen. Amen**

Sermon

"A Blue, Blue Christmas"

Mark Willis

Special Music

Regina Kellogg

As the music plays, please come forward and light a candle in memory of a loved one you have lost. As you light it, know that their love and memory continue to shine in our hearts.

COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Invitation to the Table/The Words of Institution

Rev. Mark Willis

Communion Hymn:

Congregation

“Here at Thy Table, Lord” Chalice Hymnal #384

Communion Prayer

Elder Mel Adams

Partaking of Communion

Music During Communion

Regina Kellogg

HYMN OF PEACE

CONGREGATION

“Silent Night, Holy Night” Chalice Hymnal #145 vs 1,2,3

Benediction

Mark Willis

Postlude

Regina Kellogg