

THE LONGEST NIGHT (BLUE XMAS)

*In the grace of God, we embrace unity, we celebrate diversity
and demonstrate Christ's love as an open and affirming faith community.*

Worship Leader-Ramie Beck, Elder Linda Daniels,
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 3:1-8 Ramie Beck

Second Scripture Reading: Psalm 22 Mark Willis

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**“How Do We Remember”****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 Linda Daniels****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**

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!**SHAPED BY GOD’S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST’S TABLE****WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY**

More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook & these websites:

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org
Contact Pastor Mark Willis at 816-616-9746 pastor@nocckc.org

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