

Prelude

Pastoral Symphony

George Frideric Handel

Call to Worship:

In the midst of festivities, shouts, and bright lights, we feel darkness in our hearts

Come, God of power and light, help us.

In the midst of gatherings, we feel alone and alienated.

Come, God of peace and hope, hear our cries.

In the midst of celebration, our hearts cry out.

Lord, hear us and come to us. Bring us peace.

Hymn 314

Longing for Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Opening Prayer

Scripture Readings

Luke 14: 15-24

Matthew 11: 28-29

Revelation 21: 1-7

Hymn 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Stanzas 1, 6, &7

VENI EMMANUEL

Lighting Of The Candles

Refrain after Each O Lord, Hear My Prayer HEAR MY PRAYER

O Lord, Hear My Prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

A Candle For Our Grief

A Candle For Our Courage

A Candle For Our Fear

A Candle For Our Love

A Candle For Jesus Christ

A Candle For Each Of Our Challenges, Burdens or Sorrows

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Comforting God, in this time of reflection, drench us in your presence of honesty and remembrance.

Help each of us find your light, a light that will guide us day-by-day, step- by-step, as we seek to live the life abundant that you offer us.

For those we remember tonight,

We give you thanks for their lives and what they have offered us.

For the struggles and hardship which we lay before you,

Grant us your peace.

For the forgiveness that we need or offer tonight,

Soften our hearts.

For the loneliness we all feel at times during this season of awe and wonder,

Give us community and others who will love us and let us know you are with us. Comfort us all we pray. Encourage us. Empower us. In Christ, the incarnate word, whose light shines in the darkness, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on *Once in Royal David's City*

Worship Leadership:

Ed Erner

Marie Loudon-Hanes

Betsey Watson Mascaro

Bob McEvoy

Pastor Jessie Myers

Pastor Bill Lindeman

Brent Neuenschwander

Longest Night Service

Advent Longing

By Larry J. Peacock

In the darkness of the season, in the silence of Mary's womb,
New life waits and grows. Hope is shaped in hidden places,
On the edges, in the depths far from the blinding lights and deafening
Sounds of consumer frenzy.

In the darkness and silence of my own life, I wait, listening for the
Whisper of angel wings, longing for a genuine experience of
Mystery, hoping for a rekindling of joy and the establishment
of peace.

I lean into the darkness and silence.

Expectant.



December 21, 2017
6:00 pm - Sanctuary
First Presbyterian Church