

## Words of Comfort/Affirmation of Faith

Time after time, the angels break in with a greeting:

**“Do not fear.”**

So when our days are heavy and our sleep grows restless,  
**we believe that God is near.**

When fear feels greater than hope,  
**we’ll look for signs of new life;  
we’ll take a step toward God with shaking knees;  
we’ll stand together,  
and we won’t let fear stop us.**

When we’re desperate for Christ, Emmanuel, God-With-Us, we’ll remember:  
**we are the hands and feet of Christ,  
made in God’s own image,  
called to be light-bearers in a fearful world.**

For we know that, no matter how it may seem,  
**God is here, among us, even now. Amen.**

## Song

*“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”*

## Benediction

*Thank you to all who participated in this service:*

Lacey Presbyterian Praise Team, Revs Rachel & Josh Young, Rev. Julie Scheer Johnson, Cherie Hankal, Rev. Jo Ann Staebler, Peter Kimmel, Jessie Simpson, Tech crew: Kevin Hutton, Mike Ball



Websites: [www.laceypres.org](http://www.laceypres.org) / [wpcoly.org](http://wpcoly.org)



**Gathering Music**

“God Is The Friend Of Silence”

**Welcome & Passing the Peace**

**Candle Lighting**

Even through the longest nights,  
**we keep vigil.**

When days are long and we grow weary,  
**we keep vigil.**

When we’re running out of hope,  
**we keep vigil.**

When peace feels like a pipe dream,  
**we keep vigil.**

When joy seems like a luxury we can’t afford,  
**we keep vigil.**

When the world is more full of hate than love,  
**we keep vigil.**

When we’re desperate for Christ, Emmanuel, God-With-Us,  
**we keep vigil.**

Let us keep vigil, for God is surely with us.

**Passing the Peace & Passing the Light**

Let us now pass the peace of Christ to one another, remembering that each of us carries the Christ-light within. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Song**

...”O Come O Come Emmanuel”

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 64

**Silent Reflection**

What is your breathing like?

Where do you feel tension?

How is your heart?

**Poetry Reading**

...”Birdsong” by Sarah Speed

**Sung Response**

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel

Shall come to thee o Israel

**Prayers of the People**

*When invited, you may come to the Communion Table to light a candle or two to represent the hopes and fears you carry this night. Hold these and the prayers of others, trusting that God is with us in this sacred space of longing and hope.*

**Sung Response**

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel

Shall come to thee o Israel

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 54:10-14

## **O Come O Come Emmanuel**

### **Verse 1**

O come, o come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears

### **Chorus**

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to Thee, o Israel

### **Verse 2**

O come Thou dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

### **Chorus**

### **Verse 3**

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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# O Little Town of Bethlehem

## Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

## Verse 2

O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace upon the earth  
For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love

## Verse 3

How silently how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n  
No ear may hear His coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will  
receive Him still

The dear Christ enters in

## Verse 4

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

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