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"

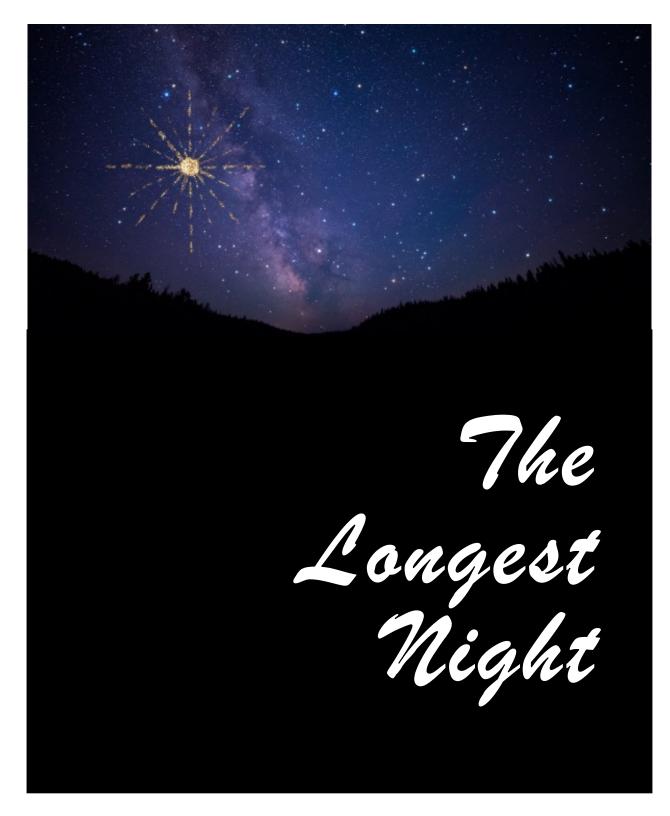
Benediction

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 / 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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