

Affirmation of Faith

Jessie Simpson, WPC

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

Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Thank you to all who participated in this service:

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

The background of the poster is a dark, starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible. A bright, multi-pointed starburst or comet tail is in the upper left. The foreground shows the dark silhouette of a mountain range.

The Longest Night

Gathering Music

Reverend Josh Young, LPC

“God Is The Friend Of Silence”

Welcome

Reverend Rachel Young, LPC

Candle Lighting Reverend Julie Scheer Johnson, WPC

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

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

Cherie Hankal, LPC

Isaiah 64 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Silent Reflection

What is your breathing like?

Where do you feel tension?

How is your heart?

Poetry Reading

Reverend Jo Ann Staebler, WPC

“Birdsong” by Sarah A. Speed

Sung Response

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel

Shall come to thee o Israel

Prayers of the People

*After time of sharing, you will be invited to 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

Peter Kimmel, WPC

Isaiah 54:10-14 (*Inclusive Bible*)