



# *The Longest Night*

December 21, 2023

West Lawn  
United Methodist Church

# Welcome to WEST LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Our vision is to Invite, Embrace, and Empower all to be the family of God in Christ*

***Longest Night Service***  
***December 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.***

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

<b>HYMN</b>	<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vss. 1-2)</i>	UMH #211
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**OPENING PRAYER**

<b>FIRST READING</b>	Isaiah 43 <i>(selected verses)</i>
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<b>HYMN</b>	<i>"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"</i>	UMH #218
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<b>SECOND READING</b>	Isaiah 40 <i>(selected verses)</i>
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<b>SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	<i>"Jesus, Lord at thy Birth"</i>	DeFord
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**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**INVITATION TO MEMORY STAR & CANDLE LIGHTING**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

<b>VIDEO</b>	<i>"Cry Out to Jesus"</i>	Third Day
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<b>THIRD READING</b>	Luke 2:1-7
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<b>HYMN</b>	<i>"What Child Is This"</i>	UMH #219
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**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 121

Congregation

**PRAYER**

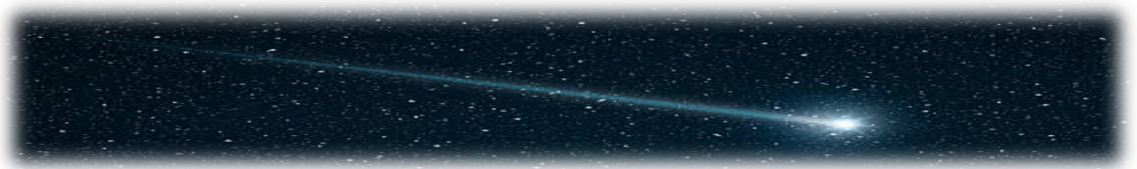
**CLOSING HYMN**

*"Silent Night" (vss. 1-3)*

UMH #239

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

**BLESSING/DISMISSAL**



Thank you to all who made this service possible:

Pastor Pat Goshert  
Griefshare Team  
Prayer Ministry Team  
Stephen Ministers  
John Coakley, soloist  
Judith Alvarez, piano  
David Haas, A/V technician

*The exterior Christmas lighting of our church campus is presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Stacy Myers, and the saints who now rest in heaven.*

# *The Longest Night*

by Rachel Barenblat

We all tell ourselves stories  
about grief to come.

Anticipating the dark  
we think, how can I live  
without the sun I turn toward?

We wrest what gifts we can  
from the dying days.

One morning we wake  
and the doorway we most dreaded  
is behind us.

The ice may not recede  
for months to come  
but day by day  
may there be more light.



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