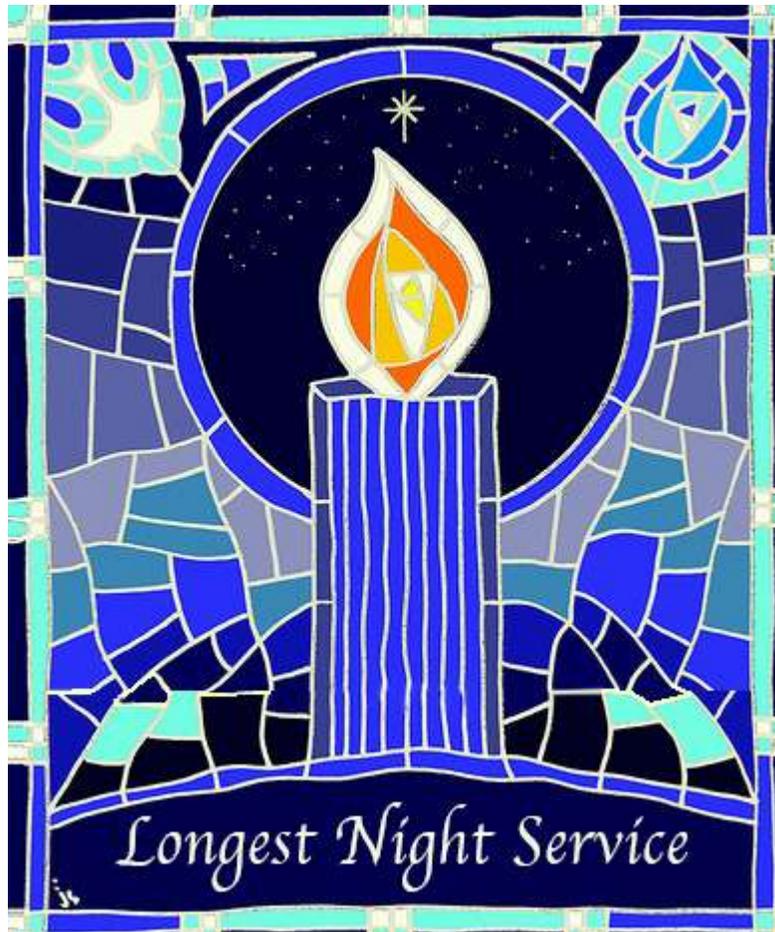


Longest Night
Prayers and Song for the Winter Solstice
December 21, 2020



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December 21, 2020

**LONGEST NIGHT
Prayers and Song for the Winter Solstice**

WELCOME AND GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

READING

Psalm 46: 5-10

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

SONG

Be Still and Know

NARRATION 1

READING

Ecclesiasties 3:1-4

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

SONG

The Winter Weeps in Snowfall

NARRATION 2

READING

Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

HYMN**Comfort, Comfort Now My People****ELW 256**

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| <p>1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.</p> | <p>2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.</p> |
| <p>3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.</p> | |

(Text: Johann G. Olcarius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878; Music: *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.)

READING

from Matthew, the 5th chapter:

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

NARRATION 3**HYMN****Of the Father's Love Begotten****ELW 295**

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|---|---|
| <p>1 Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.</p> | <p>2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.</p> |
| <p>3 This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.</p> | <p>4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.</p> |

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.

(Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th century.)

READING

Psalm 30:4-5

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for those in need of special prayers in these days, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

SONG

In the Bleak Midwinter

NARRATION 4

BLESSING

May the Lord bless us and keep us, may God make his face shine on us with grace and mercy. And may the Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. **Amen.**

“Be Still and Know, “The Winter Weeps in Snowfall” and “In the Bleak Midwinter” from The Longest Night by Joseph M. Martin Copyright 2017 Hal Leonard. Permission for use granted under ONE LICENSE #735150-A

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Prayers: Deacon Claire Miller
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