

Service of Light - December 16, 2021 - 7 pm

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Christine Atkins

Gathering Song

“Night Carol”

Duet: Rev. Will and Naomi Burhans

Welcome

Kathleen Zagata

Call to Prayer (responsively) from Psalm 42

Margaret McIndoe

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God; for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God; with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise God, my help and my God.

Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night God’s song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise God; my help and my God.

Hymn

O Come, O come, Emmanuel

Pilgrim Hymnal # 110

Verse - Peter Owens, tenor; Refrain - congregation

“Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel”

Candle of Sorrow

A Prayer of Petition (in unison)

Regina Campbell

We praise you, O God, Father of all mercies, Mother of all consolation.

You comfort and care for us and have promised to be with us always.

As we gather this evening in the quiet and safety of this sacred haven, we confess to you, not our sinfulness, but the way we may feel now.

Some of us are weighed down with the loss of loved ones,

a change in our health, the shifting of hopes and dreams.

Some of us are supporting those whose hearts are heavy, so we cannot fully embrace the joy of the season. We ask you now to help us, O God. Embrace us, heal us, walk with us through our pain. You, who know both joy and grief, meet those whose hearts are aching. Hold us all close until the days dawn a bit brighter and we find that we can all walk in delight once more. Amen.

A time for Meditation

Musical Response *“Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel”*

Candle of Courage

A Reading from The Prophet “On Joy and Sorrow”

Jim Stansfield

A time for Meditation

Musical Response *“Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel”*

Candle of Memory

Prayers of the People

Branda Wilhoite & John Keeley

Invitation to offer spoken and silent remembrances

You are invited to come forward as you choose, to light a candle,
and to offer either a silent or spoken prayer.

Musical Response *“Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel”*

Candle of Hope

Scripture Reading

The Gospel of John 1:1-16

Rev. Judy Arnold

A time for Meditation

Musical Response *“Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel”*

Go in Peace and in Silence.

Feel free to remain as long as you would like for prayer and meditation.

Special thanks to

Beth Welty, violinist and Peter Owens, soloist.

Leigh Kelliher and Pam Budner, Altar Builders.

Nick Troisi, Margaret McIndoe, John Keeley and Christine Atkins, ushers.

Grateful for the contributions of Brian McArdle, Sarah Marino, and Jane Ring Frank.