



Longest Night Service --- December 21, 2020

WELCOME

Pastor Tonya

Blessing for the Longest Night – Jan Richardson

PRAYER

One: We look for light, but find darkness;
for brightness, but walk in gloom.

Many: O God, here in this darkness I search for you.

One: We feel the darkness of grief,
our longing for loved ones no longer with us who gave light to our days.

Many: O God, here in this darkness I search for you.

One: We experience the darkness of uncertainty and confusion in life circumstances,
our longing for a path to be illumined before our feet.

Many: O God, here in this darkness I search for you.

One: We experience the darkness of illness—in ourselves, in a loved one,
our longing for your healing light.

Many: O God, here in this darkness I search for you.

One: We know the darkness of the war and violence in our world,
the longing for the light of peace to bring healing balm.

Many: O God, here in this darkness I search for you.

One: In this silence we name before you other ways that we find ourselves in darkness.
(silent prayer)

Prayer....

GOD'S STORIES OF LIGHT

Pastor Jim

The light of creation: Genesis 1:1-5

One: Jesus, you said, "I am the light of the world."

Many: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

Reflection: What has changed in our lives?

Music for Meditation: *Helpless and hungry (STS 26)*

The light of the prophets: Isaiah 9:2-6

One: Jesus, you said, "I am the light of the world."

Many: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

Reflection: What do we want to lament or mourn?

Music for Meditation: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (arr. by Don Wyrzten)*

The light of hope: Luke 1:46-55

One: Jesus, you said, "I am the light of the world."

Many: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

Reflection: What is our hope?

Music for Meditation: *Sleep, holy babe*

SENDING PRAYER AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Away in a Manger (arr. by Carl Mueller)*