

# *A Service for the Longest Night*

December 21, 2021

6:00 p.m.

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## **Entering the Longest Night**

Prelude *What Child is This?* arr. Raney  
Baxter Jennings and John Fulcher, piano

Words of Welcome and Explanation Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer

Call to Worship Dr. Grammer

Leader: On this long dark night,  
we await the coming of Christ.

**People: We long for the light of his presence,  
with us and in us.**

Leader: When our souls are deeply troubled,  
and our hearts break with the weight of sorrow,

**People: may our grief be seasoned with love,  
and our sorrow be buoyed by hope.**

Leader: In our times of God-forsakenness and estrangement,

**People: May we gaze on the innocent One,  
made perfect through suffering,  
and see in him our vulnerable God,  
who saves in weakness and pain.**

Leader: May our suffering empty us of pride,

**People: and lead us to true joy,  
our only security,  
in Christ the infinite depths of God's grace.**

Invocation

## **Experiencing the Longest Night**

\*Carol 155 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS  
(Stanzas 1,2,4)

A Word from the Prophets Isaiah 9:1-6 William Underwood

\*Please stand as you are able

Song "Somewhere in Your Silent Night" Hall, Herms, & West  
David Cameron, tenor  
Mary Helen Cameron, piano

A Word from the Gospels John 1:1-5 William Underwood

\*Carol 163 "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES ISTEIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN  
(Stanzas 1,3)

Meditation Rev. Dr. Mike Hatfield

## **Finding Our Light in Darkness**

Advent Wreath Litany Rev. Ashley Harrington

Leader: We light the candle of Hope as we await the coming of Jesus,  
who is our source of hope.

**People: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of hope,  
in our times of emptiness.**

Leader: We light the candle of Peace,  
knowing that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

**People: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of peace  
in our times of uncertainty.**

Leader: We light the candle of Joy,  
knowing that our comfort and help come from God.

**People: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of joy in our times of sadness.**

Leader: We light the candle of Love,  
knowing that God is love revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

**People: Thank you, Lord, for the gift of love  
in our times of loneliness.**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

**People: The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
full of grace and truth.**

Leader: In him was life, and that life was the light of all.  
We light the Christ Candle, knowing that Jesus is our hope,  
our peace, our joy and the source of love.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Harrington

A Time of Remembrance

*You are invited to come and light a candle in remembrance of loss, whether through death, loss of a relationship, loss of job, or loss of health; in remembrance of other significant events; to represent Light, even as the darkness of depression or loss of joy surrounds you; or to represent hope for the coming year.*

Quiet time at the Altar or in the Pew

\*The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Harrington

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

\*Carol 170

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”  
(Stanzas 1,3)

CAROL

\*Blessing and Dismissal

Dr. Hatfield

Postlude

*Silent Night*

arr. Strommen

**Worship Leaders**

**First Baptist Church, Martinsville**

Rev. Dr. Libby M. Grammer, Senior Pastor

Rev. John Fulcher, Interim Minister of Music

Rev. Ashley Harrington, Interim Minister to Children & Families

Baxter Jennings, Piano

William Underwood, Lay Reader

**Chatham Heights Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. Mike Hatfield, Chatham Heights Baptist Church

Rev. David Cameron, Associate Minister

Mary Helen Cameron, piano

*Thank you for sharing these important moments in worship with us. Our prayers this season attend your memories of loved ones who remain dear to you and missed; and your spirit as you experience feelings of anxiety, loneliness, depression, or loss of joy.*

*As you exit, please note a few resources are available to you in the foyer. In addition, know that you are invited to call one of the ministers during the next few days if a pastoral visit would be of value to you.*



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
MARTINSVILLE, VA

