

# T H E L O N G E S T N I G H T

14 DECEMBER 2022 | 5:00 P.M.

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## PRELUDE

## SILENT MEDITATION

## OUT OF DARKNESS, LIGHT

We come seeking hope, peace, comfort, and love.

**We come seeking the light.**

We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, and our fears.

**We come seeking the light.**

We come, seeking relief from pain and solace for our loss.

**We come seeking the light.**

In Christ, the Light of the World, what we discover is this:

**We have been found by the light.**

## MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS | Hymn 89

*Katie Cilluffo, soloist*

*The soloist will sing stanzas 1, 2, and 6;*

*the congregation is invited to join in the refrain.*

## MY HELP AND MY GOD | Psalm 42

## SILENT MEDITATION

## COME, CHRIST JESUS

Into our darkness, doubt, and despair,

**come, Christ Jesus, be our light.**

Into our sorrow, sickness, and grief,

**come, Christ Jesus, be our comfort.**

Into each conflict, division, and war,

**come, Christ Jesus, be our peace.**

Into this wounded world,

**come, Christ Jesus, be our hope.**

When we call to you, hear our cry.

Do not abandon us, but draw near.

**Come, Christ Jesus, be our life. Amen.**

## WHILE WE ARE WAITING | Hymn 92

## THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED | Isaiah 9:2-7

## SILENT MEDITATION

## \*PRAYER FOR THE LONGEST NIGHT

Lord, it is nearly night. The night is for stillness.

**Let us be still in your presence.**

It is nearly night after a long day. What has been done

has been done; what has not been done

has not been done.

**Let it be.**

The night is dark.

**Let our fears of the darkness – of the world  
and of our own lives – rest in you.**

The night is quiet.

**Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
those dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

The night heralds the dawn.

**Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys,  
and new possibilities.**

In the name of Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

... continued on reverse

**\*THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR** | Hymn 123

**PONDERED THEM IN HER HEART** | Luke 2:1-19

**SILENT MEDITATION AND CANDLE LIGHTING**

*All who wish may come forward to light a candle  
in memory of a loved one, as an act of prayer  
for light in the world, or as a sign  
of receiving God's comfort and peace.*

**SOLO** | Vocalise (Rachmaninoff) | Katie Cilluffo

**LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS** | John 1:1-5

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**PRAYER FOR GOD'S LIGHT**

In the beginning, in the midst of chaos and darkness,  
God spoke:

**Let there be light.**

As the people walked in darkness, God promised  
to shine light and joy:

**Let there be light.**

God's Word became flesh, and the Word was the light  
of all people:

**Let there be light.**

We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us;  
even now, in the shadows of suffering and death:

**Let there be light.**

God of comfort, we pray for all those who  
grieve and mourn:

**Let there be light.**

We pray for all who are sick, and for those who wait  
beneath life's crushing load:

**Let there be light.**

We pray for all who are lonely, angry, struggling,  
and afraid:

**Let there be light.**

We pray for all who suffer the terrors of war, the ravages of  
disease, the oppressive weight of hunger:

**Let there be light.**

Give to all of us your comfort, help, release, and healing:

Give to all of us, we pray, your forgiveness, hope,  
and inner rebirth:

**Let there be light.**

Open us to gratitude, understanding, compassion,  
and love:

**Let there be light.**

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the Light of the World.

**Amen.**

**\*O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM** | Hymn 121

**\*BENEDICTION**

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*\* You are invited to stand, in body or spirit.*

*After the service, you are welcomed to linger for a while in  
quietness or prayer, to enjoy a time of fellowship in the narthex, or  
to be on your way in the love and mercy of God.*