

can begin to feel the silence as God's invitation to rest and be still, and we can begin to experience the darkness around us as the embrace of God - a God who is present - maybe even more powerfully in our pain, and a God who promises that it will not be dark forever.

Tomorrow there will be just a little more light than today. You may not have noticed, but slowly spring will come again.

May it be the same way as God brings the light of hope into your life and into our world.

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION/PRAYER

Dr. Kevin Chance

BENEDICTION

Rev. Savannah Gross

POSTLUDE

Dr. Kevin Chance

Longest Night Service



December 21, 2023, 6 pm
Trinity United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC Dr. Kevin Chance

WELCOME Rev. Penny Ford

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Savannah Gross

Merciful God,
In this season of rejoicing,
we come to you weary and grieving.
In this season of feasting,
we hunger for healing and relief.
In this season of light, our hearts are veiled in
sorrow and shadow. Will this season ever end?

**“Yes.” We long to hear your “Yes.”
Those who are weary will find rest.
Those who mourn will be comforted.
Those who hunger will be filled.**

O come, Emmanuel. We long for you. Come meet
us where we are, and speak to us once again.

HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free,
And conquer death's deep misery.

Refrain

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

PRAYER Rev. Penny Ford

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever. Amen

PSALM 13

DEVOTIONAL *How Long?* Rev. Savannah Gross

COMMUNION PRAYER

*All are welcome to receive Communion.
May you know the presence of Christ
in the broken bread and wine (juice) poured out.*

INVITATION TO QUIET REFLECTION/PRAYER

*You are invited into a time of darkness and silence
lifting up your own prayers as you wish. You may want
to receive Holy Communion and/or pray at the altar.
You may want to come forward and light a candle as
your prayer. You may want to sit silently.*

*Darkness and silence can be scary no matter our
age or circumstance. Yet it is our prayer tonight that we*