

Please Join Us for Services on
Sunday, Dec. 22 9:15 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 24 6:30 p.m.



A quiet, meditative service for those
experiencing sadness and grief of many kinds.
Held on the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year.

The Longest Night Service ~ Saturday, December 21

Prelude and Silent Prayer

The Coming of the Light

Call to Worship. Psalm 46

O Emmanuel

~Malcolm Guite

*O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King,
and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,*

*Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling
bands.*

Hymn

#245 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Responsive Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:3-12, The Message

Leader: You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope.

All: With less of you there is more of God and His rule.

Leader: You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you..

All: Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

Leader: You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less.

All: That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

Leader: You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God.

All: He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

Leader: You're blessed when you care.

All: At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

Leader: You're blessed when you get your inside world — your mind and heart — put right.

All: Then you can see God in the outside world.

Leader: You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight.

All: That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

Leader: You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution.

All: The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

Leader: Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit Me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens — give a cheer, even! — for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Communion

Prayer

Hymn

#255 Lo How a Rose Er Bloometh

Benediction

