

Lighting of Individual Candles

*You may come forward to light a candle, when directed, or remain seated.
If you wish, you may pray with a worship leader or you may return to your seat.*

Closing

Hymn #144 *In the Bleak Midwinter* (vs. 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

Postlude

You are invited to take a blue ornament home or to remain in prayer.

***Note:**

The hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel* is a song of people in darkness longing for God's light. It is not calling us to rejoice in the worldly form of the word, but calling our spirits and souls to reflect the true hope and joy that only God can give.

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Editors Note:

Heather Hill, Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Parma, Ohio, constructed this service from various sources (including 2022's "Blue Christmas Service" from Presbyterian Outlook) and made it her own, giving permission for others to use it. All Scripture comes from the NRSV.

<https://youngclergywomen.org/blue-christmas-service-when-christmas-hurts/>



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 21, 2022 Longest Night Service



Welcome to worship!

When you enter the sanctuary, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn #144 *In the Bleak Midwinter* (vs. 1-3)

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the book of Isaiah 40:1, 25-31

Song of response #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (vs. 1)

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

Psalm 121

Song of response #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (vs. 2)

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 11:28-30

Song of response #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (vs. 4)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory over the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A Liturgy of Remembrance

Lighting of Four Advent Candles

First Candle:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (vs. 6)

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second Candle:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (vs. 5)

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Third Candle:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (vs. 3)

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Fourth Candle:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (vs. 7)

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayers of of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.