



the
longest
night



13 december 2022
rev. steven protzman
unitarian universalist church of kent

The Longest Night

Order of Service

December 13, 2022

Take courage friends.

*The way is often hard, the path is never clear,
and the stakes are very high.*

*Take courage. For deep down, there is another truth:
you are not alone.*

-Rev. Wayne Arnason

Gathering

Prelude

Rev. Christie Anderson

Welcome

Rev. Steven Protzman, Minister

Chime

Chalice Lighting

adapted from Rev. Scott Tayler
Heidi Emhoff Wood, Worship Associate

When our days turn cold and the light dims,
may we take hold of the hands reaching out
and let them lead us to the comforting flame.

When our hearts are weary and in need of peace,
may this soft glowing light lead us into stillness.

Opening Hymn

#48 Again, as Evening's Shadow Falls

Centering and Meditation

A Time of Meditation

Meditation Song

#391 Voice Still and Small

Honoring Sorrow and Loss

A Ritual of Honoring Sorrow and Loss

*You're invited to come up as you wish
and place a stone in the bowl for the losses, the sorrows,
the struggles and the challenges you bring this evening.*

Reading

For All Our Losses by Patricia Sheldon

Music Meditation

Honoring Ourselves

Reflection and Silence

Reflection Hymn

#55 Dark of Winter

Finding Gratitude

Reflection and Silence

Reading

I Will Lift Up My Voice by Robert T. Weston

Hymn

#86 Blessed Spirit of My Life

Holding One Another in Light

Responsive Reading

#468 We Need One Another

Sharing our Light

As you light your candle from your neighbor's, please keep lit candles upright and tip the unlighted candle into the lit candle.

Reading

Life is Worth the Living by Duncan Howlett

Returning

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish these flames, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. May we carry these in our hearts and minds until we are together again.

Benediction

Postlude



*December 18, 2022 Christmas Celebration: A Decade of Stories and Joy!
Led by DRE Colleen Thoele and Sandy Eaglen*

*December 24, 2022 The Wonder of Christmas
Services at 6:30 and 8:30 pm*

*December 25, 2022 Unwrapping Christmas
Service at 11 am in Hobbs Hall*

Activities & Events: December 11 – 18, 2022

<https://kentuu.org/calendar/>

Dec. 11 Sunday

11:00 AM Sunday Worship
12:00 PM Social Hour
12:00 PM 2nd Sunday Meet & Greet
12:00 PM Pageant Rehearsal
12:30 PM Euchre Card Group

Dec. 12 Monday

6:00 PM OWL

Dec. 13 Tuesday

10:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 14 Wednesday

6:00 PM Xmas Carol Sing

Dec. 15 Thursday

5:30 PM Tone Chimers
6:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry
7:00 PM Covenant Group
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 16 Friday

11:30 AM Hobbs Hall Rental

Dec. 17 Saturday

10:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal
3:00 PM Hobbs Hall Rental

Dec. 18 Sunday *Happy Hanukkah!*

10:00 AM Brass Quartette Rehearsal
11:00 AM Sunday Worship
12:00 PM Social Hour
4:30 PM UUYJ

For more information, read the e-nUUs.
kentuu.org/news/announcements-events/

Church Address: Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
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On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent

Church Office: The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex
(yellow house) next to the church building

Visit our website.



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Nursery Staff
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Affiliated Community Minister
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Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

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Again, as Evening's Shadow Falls

Again, as evening's shadow falls,
we gather in these hallowed walls;
and vesper hymns and vesper prayer
rise mingling on the holy air.

May struggling hearts that seek release
here find the rest of God's own peace:
and, strengthened here by hymn and prayer,
lay down the burden and the care.

Life's tumult we must meet again;
we cannot at the shrine remain;
but in the spirit's secret cell
may hymn and prayer forever dwell.

Voice Still and Small

Voice still and small, deep inside all,
I hear you call, singing.
In dark and rain, sorrow and pain,
still you remain singing.
Calming my fears, quenching my tears,
through all the years, singing.

Dark of Winter

Dark of winter, soft and still,
your quiet calm surrounds me.
Let my thoughts go where they will,
ease my mind profoundly.
And then my soul will sing a song
a blessed song of love eternal.
Gentle darkness, soft and still,
bring your quiet to me.

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes,
that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries,
comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice,
a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise,
let your peace flow through me.

Blessed Spirit of My Life

Blessed Spirit of my life,
give me strength through stress and strife;
help me live with dignity;
let me know serenity.
Fill me with a vision,
clear my mind of fear and confusion.
When my thoughts flow restlessly,
let peace find a home in me.

Spirit of great mystery,
hear the still, small voice in me.
Help me live my wordless creed
as I comfort those in need.
Fill me with compassion,
be the source of my intuition.
Then, when life is done for me,
let love be my legacy.

Responsive Reading **We Need One Another** by George E. Odell

We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.

We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.

We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation,
and need to be recalled to our best selves again.

*We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose,
and cannot do it alone.*

We need one another in the hour of success,
when we look for someone to share our triumphs.

*We need one another in the hour of defeat,
when with encouragement we might endure, and stand again.*

We need one another we when come to die,
and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey.

All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us.