

December 21, 2023

A Service of the Longest Night

8:00 p.m.

# LONGEST NIGHT



## First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

[www.fpcevv.com](http://www.fpcevv.com)

# Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: [www.fpcevv.com](http://www.fpcevv.com) to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our [Facebook](#) page - First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana. We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our Website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

## THE SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT

### WE GATHER TO OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT

*\*You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

#### THE PRELUDE

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

Marcel Dupré

#### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

#### THE HYMN . . . No. 84

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

*Conditor Alme Siderum*; Sarum Plainsong, 9<sup>th</sup>C

Latin, 9<sup>th</sup>C

**Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.**

**When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but a child of Mary, blameless mother mild.**

**At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.**

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF APPROACH

One In the rising of the sun and in its going down,  
when we are weary and need strength:

**All We remember them.**

One When we are lost and sick at heart, when we yearn to share joy:

**All We remember them.**

One So long as we live, they too shall live, for they will always be part of us:

**All We remember them.**

One God of the shadows, sharing our pain and our tears and our struggle,  
draining the cup of what it is to be human:

**All We watch with you.**

One God of the night, sharing our fears and our prayers and our restlessness,  
measuring the road between living and dying:

**All We watch with you.**

One God of the dawn, sharing the questions we never dare ask you,  
yearning in us for the light of your glory:

**All We watch with you.**

## THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God

## WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

### THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

### THE LESSON

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

### THE READING

"The Uninvited Guest"

John Pavolitz

### \*THE HYMN . . . no. 87

*Genevan* 42; Genevan Psalter

"Comfort, Comfort You my People"

Johannes Olearius

**"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.**

**"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.**

**To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!**

**Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."**

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

## THE LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-8

## THE READING

"Meditation before Kaddish"

from the Mishkan T'filah

## WE GIVE THANKS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOPE

### A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE AND MEDITATION

*If you wish to have a candle in the Sanctuary lit in memory or reverence,  
please make a note in the online chat.*

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Spoken Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

### THE READING

"'Tis a Fearful Thing"

Yehuda HaLevi

## THE BENEDICTION

One The Lord be with you;

**All And with thy spirit.**

One Let us bless the Lord;

**All Thanks be to God.**

One The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve us.

**All Amen.**

One May the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**All Amen.**

*You are invited to stay and meditate or leave in silence.*

### Leading tonight's service:

Elders	Ronda Hurt, Gary Morris, Steve Wylie
Parish Visitor	Jerusha Van Camp
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls

### Join us in worship throughout this holiday season:

Sunday, December 24	8:30 and 10:30 a.m.	Advent Worship
	5:00 p.m.	A Service of Carols, Candlelight and Communion
Sunday, December 31	10:30 a.m.	One Worship Service

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the Covenant Network  
of Presbyterians.

