

HILTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 21, 2022 ~ 6:00 PM



The Longest Night: A Service of Healing and Wholeness

phone: (757) 595-1313 · email: Office@HiltonPres.org · website: www.HiltonPres.org

Welcome!

Our Sanctuary is equipped with a t-coil HEARING LOOP! If you need assistance





When **BOLD**, words are read by all.
 * When **STARRED**, please stand as able.

LIGHTING CANDLES FOR OTHERS, OURSELVES, AND OUR WORLD

Our service will begin with ten minutes of contemplative music for healing. During this time you are invited to come forward and light candles as a visible sign of your prayers of remembrance and peace.

* *CALL TO WORSHIP*

Rev. Clark DeSarro-Raynal
 from John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by God, and without God nothing came to be. What came to be through God was life, and this life was the light of the world.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

* *HYMN 314*

"Christ Be Our Light"
 verse 1

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

SCRIPTURE

[Psalm 42:1-3](#)
[Micah 2:2-5a](#)

REFLECTION

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

based on litany used by St. Andrew Cathedral, Hawaii
www.thecathedralofstandrew.org

This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memories that bind them to us in this season. *[Pause while the first candle is lit.]*

We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.



This second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to you, O God, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom. *[Pause while the second candle is lit.]*

We remember that through You all things are possible.

This third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and month; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

[Pause while the third candle is lit.]

Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.

This fourth candle we light to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers us. We remember that God who shares our life promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering. *[Pause while the fourth candle is lit.]*

We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, FOR OURSELVES, AND FOR OUR WORLD

(from reformedworship.org)

MUSIC

"The Lord Is My Salvation"

Patti Grayson and Lois Reese

Getty, Getty,

Nockles, and Myrin

SENDING

* *BLESSING*

The Irish Blessing (in unison)

May the road rise up to meet you,

May the wind be always at you back,

May the sun shine warm upon you face,

and the rains fall soft upon your fields;

and until we meet again,

May you be held in the warmth of God's hand. Amen.



We seek to be a community where the needs of people meet the power of God.
That is our hope for this night.

Tonight is the winter solstice, the longest night of the year,
and we recognize that for many the holidays can be long.
While there is much merry-making going on,
we realize that losses in our lives can take much of the joy out of this season.

Tonight we intend to recognize the real darkness that exists
in our lives and in the world. At the same time we hope that glimpses of light might
shine through just as the stars pierce a dark, cold winter night.
We welcome God's presence with us here tonight and always.
May the candlelight, the music, the prayers, the Word of God, the silence,
the communion of saints, and the community gathered here
comfort and inspire you.