



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Service of the Longest Night

December 21, 2022

“Light in the Darkness.” A service to bring light and hope; to reflect on pain, sadness, loss, and loneliness felt while trusting God to bring healing. Find hope and comfort – you are not alone – God knows you and loves you unconditionally. The days and light will grow; the darkness will recede.

GATHERING

We Hear Words of Heartbreak

PRELUDE

Cello Solo

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

GATHERING SONG

“Now It Is Evening”

ELW 572

WORD

We Hear Words of Hope.

PSALM 130

Waiting for Divine Redemption

A Song of Ascents

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

⁴But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

SONG

“I Wonder as I Wander”

WOV 642

REFLECTION

THANKSGIVING

We Invite: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

SONG

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

ELW 282

PRAYER

[**Response: Come Lord Jesus, Come**]

Sustained by the light of Christ shining forth in our darkness, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of hope and redemption, fill your church with your light. Come among us. Make your church a beacon of hope for all who seek refuge, strength, and hope. **R.**

God of love and mercy, protect your world from harm. Shelter those who face severe weather. Bring warmth and comfort to those who are worn down by the effects of cold and dark. **R.**

God of strength and wisdom, guide all who are in positions of power and leadership. Bring peace to communities torn apart by conflict and justice to all who are oppressed. Give courage to those who put themselves in danger to help others. **R.**

God of mercy and grace, bring hope to all who suffer. Nourish the hungry. Provide meaningful labour for the unemployed. Bring companionship to those who are lonely. Protect those whose needs make them vulnerable to exploitation or abuse. Comfort all who are burdened by illness or grief, especially those we name now....**R.**

God of light and life, bless our community. Uphold all who provide services for mental health care, medicine, and support for those who cannot live safely on their own. Bring respite for those who are weary and strength for all who provide compassion and care for the vulnerable ones among us. **R.**

God of memory and hope, with thanksgiving we remember those who have died, especially those we name now....and all who are most dear to us. As we treasure their memory, we look with hope to your promise to bring us together with all your saints into the eternal light of your presence. **R.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your promise, through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

SENDING

We are Sent.

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

"Silent Night"

ELW 281

POSTLUDE

Vocal Solo: *Breath of Heaven*

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

(John 1:5)



ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek	Pastor
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Wendy Solomon	Cellist
Stacey MacIntyre	Soloist
Dave Pascoe	Audio Visual

PRAYER REQUESTS

Make your prayer requests to Pastor Tuula: text, call or reach us from our website: <http://www.stphilipstoronto.com/prayer-requests/>

HELP WHEN NEEDED

The first step is always hard: asking for help. If you need help, to talk, or are scared, Pastor Tuula is available and "on-call" over the holidays. Call and together figure out if more help is needed. The office may be closed, but Pastor Tuula can be reached at 416.859.5588.

In an emergency, use this link <https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/crisis-resources>.

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