

Movement Four: Going Forth

HEAR

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:4; Psalm 147:3; Psalm 34:18

RESPOND

Closing Prayer

Sending & Candle Lighting

*Go now in peace, trusting that you are loved, you are known,
and you are not alone. Amen.*

Worship Participants:

Kathryn Johnston, Cathay Snyder, Mark McKeever

*Everyone is welcome to worship throughout the Christmas
season and beyond!*

Christmas Eve Family Service 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols 7:30 & 11:00pm

Christmas Day Communion Service 11:00am

First Sunday after Christmas (12/31) 11:00am

Baptism of the Lord (1/7) 8:15 & 11am
Sunday School at 9:35am.

Let there
be LIGHT

THE LONGEST NIGHT
A SERVICE OF GRIEF & REMEMBRANCE



Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church
December 21, 2017 - 7:00pm

Preparation

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

– Matthew 5:4

"I need Christ, not something that resembles Him."

– C. S. Lewis, A Grief Observed

Movement One: Creating Space

HEAR

Preludes

Words of Welcome and Intent

RESPOND

Call to Worship

One: Creator God, hover over this space –

All: For Grief is like an ocean, pulling us back in, and we need you in the midst of the waves.

One: Creator God, hold us in your arms –

All: For our hands are already full, carrying memories and heartache, and we need you to carry us.

One: Creator God, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, we turn to you.

All: Thank you for staying through the longest nights. We worship you. Let it be so.

Hymn #88, vv. 1,6,7

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Movement Two: Acknowledging Our Grief

HEAR

Visual Meditation

You are invited to look at the art on the cover of the bulletin by Lisle Gwynn Garrity while poetry by Sarah Are is read.

RESPOND

Naming Our Grief

As a way of acknowledging our grief, you are invited to take the stone you received at the beginning of the service, and write a reminder of your grief on it. You may write the name or initials of a loved one, or you may name a loss or circumstance that causes you to grieve.

Movement Three: Remembrance

HEAR

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-18

RESPOND

Prayer of Confession

One: God of connection and love, I confess –

All: there are people singing tonight, but my heart is too heavy for singing.

One: God of my heart and my mind, I confess –

All: I know that I need you, but it's hard to let you in. Grief builds walls where love had once been.

One: God of the here and now, I confess –

All: There is guilt that I carry, and memories to bury, but forgiving myself seems unnecessary.

One: God of my prayers and my dreams, I confess –

All: This path of grief is miserably hard, bringing out the worst in me. Forgive me when I get it wrong.

Love me back to grace and peace. Amen.

Releasing Stones

You are invited to come forward and place your stone in one of the glass vases on the chancel up front. Through this act, we symbolically release our grief to God and ask God for help in this journey.

