



**A Service of the Longest Night
First Presbyterian Church
Montrose CO
December 21, 2022**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Montrose, CO

We are people called together by Christ to celebrate God in worship, grow together through discipleship and bring others to Christ.

December 21, 2022

5:30 p.m.

A SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT

Gathering Music

Welcome

No one is far from you, O God. We come together in joy – mindful of the burdens we carry, the hurts and sorrows we have. We come together in gladness – never forgetting God’s love. We come together with praise – for each other and those who assist us on this journey. No one is far from you O God and we call upon your power in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Call to Worship*

Leader: Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for the LORD is gracious and a song of praise is fitting.

All: The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Leader: Great is the LORD our God, abundant in power with understanding beyond human measure.

All: The LORD lifts up the downtrodden and takes pleasure in those who honor him. The LORD gathers the lost and brings them home.

All: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving. Praise the LORD.

Hymn # 169 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Call to Confession and Silent Prayer

Silent Prayer and Confession are spiritual disciplines that lead us into a deeper relationship with the Living and Triune God. As we come to God in individual moments

*Rise if you are able

Nursery is available during the service for ages 0-5.

of silence, we are coming to God not alone but in community. As we confess our sins together, we open our hearts to God's Word.

(Moment of silence for personal prayer and confession)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of healing, restoration, and wholeness—you are the creator of all things, O God. We know that in you and you alone do we live and move and have our being. Our scriptures speak of your wonderful deeds; our hymns declare your greatness; our prayers rely upon your faithfulness. And yet, O God, we too often wonder if you are really there. We too often wonder if you really are able to care for us. We too often wonder if the healing and wholeness we need is simply too much for you. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us when your glory is lost in our worrying. Forgive us and heal us that we might be restored to your service and healed for your glory. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia! Amen.

Intercession for Healing and Restoration

Leader: God, our creator, your will for us and for all your people is wholeness, reconciliation, and salvation.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your Presence.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: To the Holy One, the Everlasting God, the Ancient of Days; to the Source of all love and all life, let us offer our prayers.

Leader: For all those who are in need of healing,

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who are hindered by injury or illness,

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Let them be comforted in the remembrance of your promises. Give to those who mourn, peace in the midst of their tears. You are the Resurrection and the Life! We know and believe this!

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All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who are broken-hearted and grieving in their soul because of life's circumstances. We know that you rescue those who are crushed in spirit. We ask that you draw near to those who are facing tough times.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who are troubled by the weight of bitterness, accusations, anger, sorrow, and pain. Fill us instead with your peace and the knowledge that you are with us.

Leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All: Amen, Amen, Amen!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5: 1-10

[The following is to be read by Pastor Jesse]

Holy God, we praise you for your love—you are light in our darkness, healing for our brokenness, water in a dry and weary land; you are bread for our hunger, drink for our thirst, eternal and abundant life.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ—

[lifting Bible] —word made flesh,

[lifting candle] —light of the world,

[lifting water] —living water,

[lifting oil] —oil of healing,

[lifting cup] —cup of blessing,

[lifting bread] —bread of life.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—in the water, the oil, and the light, in the word, the bread, and the cup, in the beloved body of Christ. Make us holy, make us whole; make us one as you are one. Bless and keep us, now and always. Amen.

Communion

We will take communion by intinction, or if you prefer, take individual cups of bread and juice. After you have received communion, you may light a candle. If you wish, you may also receive an anointing of the oil of healing.

Instrumental during Communion

Prayer

Hymn #168 – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Blessing and Benediction*

*Rise if you are able.

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