

Hilton United Methodist Church
Service of the Longest Night

December 18, 2016, 6:00pm

Prelude *Mrs. Christy Sadecki*

Words of Welcome *Rev. Jennifer Green*

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

God of Mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent Season for ourselves and our families who live with the painful memories of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of you, Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow; death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH # 196

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40

Responsive Reading: Psalm 121

One: I will lift up mine eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

Many: My help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

One: God will not suffer your foot to be moved. The One who keeps you will not slumber.

Many: Behold the one who keeps Israel shall not slumber or sleep.

One: The Holy One is your keeper. The Holy One is your shade on your right hand.

Many: The sun shall not hurt you by day nor the moon by night.

One: Our God shall preserve you from all evil and shall preserve your soul.

Many: Our God shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and even for evermore.

Selected Readings Matthew 1 and 2

Special Music: "Be Still, My Soul"
Duet: Nadine Jamerson and Max Jamerson

Scripture Reading John 1

Message *Rev. Jennifer Green*

Hymn: "Toda la Tierra" UMH # 210
(All Earth Is Waiting)

A Liturgy of Remembering *Using the Advent Wreath Candles*

One: 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 memory that binds them to us in this season.
(Pause while the first candle is lit)

All: May God's eternal love surround them.

One: This second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health.
(Pause while the second candle is lit.)

We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

All: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.

One: 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.
(Pause while the third candle is lit.)

We give thanks for all the support we have known.

All: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.

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

All: Let us remember the One who shows the way, who brings the truth and who bears the light.

Prayers of the People

One: In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask God for all the things we need; for ourselves as we participate in whatever way we can this Christmas.
God hear our prayer....

Service of the Longest Night



All: And in your mercy answer.

One: For our families and friends that they may continue to help and support us.

God, hear our prayer....

All: And in your mercy answer.

One: For the person we have loved that has died. For all the losses that we know, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise.

God, hear our prayer.

All: And in your mercy answer.

One: For all our family and friends that they may know love and peace and happiness in you.

God, hear our prayer.

All: And in your mercy answer.

One: For the peace proclaimed by the Christmas angels, to come throughout the whole world.

God, hear our prayer....

All: And in your mercy answer.

One: God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these you people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Christ who taught us to pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Celebration of Communion

At this time you are invited to come forward to light a candle to signify that the Light overcomes the darkness.

Feel free to take the candle from this service with you as a remembrance.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 1,2,6,7 #211

Benediction (*in unison*):

The Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sun shine warm upon your 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.

Hilton United Methodist Church

21 West Avenue Hilton, NY 14468

December 18, 2016

5:00pm