

# THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

December 21, 2021

7:00 p.m.

*On behalf of the Pigeon River congregation, we welcome you this evening.*

*Our hope for this evening is to acknowledge and remember both the struggles and the joys that come to our lives during Christmas time and together to find hope in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.*

## PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME .....Marie Maust

CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Marie Maust  
(Based on Isaiah 40:1-5& John 1:1-9, 14)

## OPENING SONG

Hymn # 172 “O Come, O Come, Immanuel” Tom Beachy

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ..... Marie Maust

Leader: O God, we come to you in prayer this night.

**People: For all who have a song they cannot sing,**

Leader: For all who have a burden they cannot bear,

**People: For all who live in chains they cannot break,**

Leader: For all who wander homeless and cannot return,

**People: For all who are sick, and for those who will tend them,**

Leader: For those who wait for loved ones,

**People: For those who wait in vain,**

Leader: For those who live in hunger,

**People: And for those who will not share their bread,**

Leader: For those who are misunderstood,

**People: And for those who misunderstand,**

Leader: For those whose words of love are locked within their hearts,

**People: And for those who yearn to hear those words,**

Leader: Show us the Way, O God,

**ALL: for we your people walk in darkness but have seen a great light.**

## WORSHIP IN SONG

Hymn # 178 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus” Tom Beachy

REFLECTIVE SCRIPTURES..... Pastor Dave  
Isaiah 61:1-3, Matthew 1:18-23; 4:12-16; 5:1-10; 11:28-30

## WORSHIP IN SONG

Hymn # 176 “Comfort, Comfort, O my People” Tom Beachy

MEDITATION (John 11:17-36) .....Pastor Dave

## TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

## REFLECTIVE MUSIC

## STATIONS OF HOPE

*You are invited to participate in any or all the following...*

Communion: Communion is for any baptized believer of Jesus Christ. Communion is celebrated this evening with pre-packaged elements.

Candle-lighting: Use a lighter to light a candle to remember a loved one, a loss, or a hope.

Stained Glass: Create a reminder of beauty out of brokenness and the light of Christ that shines through our brokenness.

Individual Prayer: You may invite prayer with a specific request - i.e. a loss, forgiveness, to be able to forgive someone else, hope for a brighter tomorrow, etc. or just for a general prayer with or without anointing.

## CLOSING SONG

Hymn # 195 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” Tom Beachy

BENEDICTION ..... Pastor Dave

*Comfort, comfort my people says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed and that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.*

## POSTLUDE

*A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley should be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*  
Isaiah 40:1-5 (NIV)

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.*  
Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)

*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

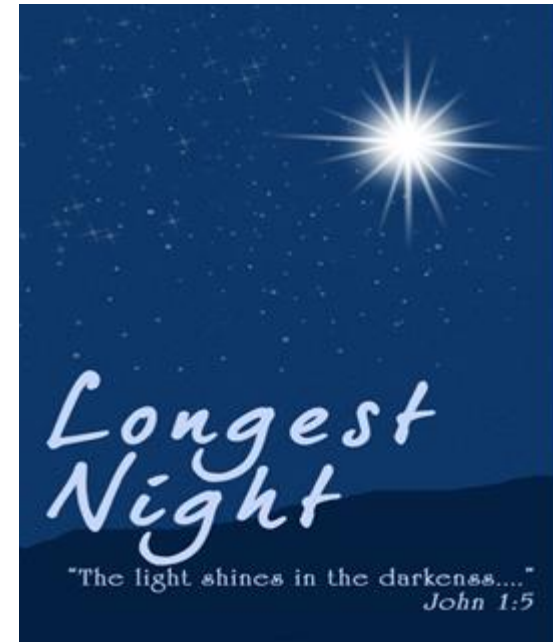
*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

Matt 1:18-23 (NIV)

*When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:*

*"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

Matthew 4:12-16 (NIV)



*Longest Night Service:*

*For Those Who Have Experienced Loss*

*Tuesday, December 21st, 7:00 p.m.*

*Pigeon River Mennonite Church*

*7120 Geiger Road, Pigeon*

The Christmas season is a time of joy and celebration for many people. Yet for others, it is a difficult season as their pain and struggle are often overlooked. They are well aware of their needs and challenges through the holiday season. The physical darkness is sometimes reflected in dark feelings due to grief from the loss of loved ones, pain in one's past, the inability to forgive, and the awareness of the brokenness in all of our lives.

We invite you to join us on Dec. 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Pigeon River Mennonite Church as we gather to acknowledge this darkness in all our lives and to share the light that God has promised us in Jesus Christ. Come for prayers, scripture, music, communion, candle lighting and fellowship as we gather together, a people who, though living in darkness, have seen a great light.

