

*For all we know, before Mary sang her  
song of joy she wept tears of  
frustration despair and heartbreak.*

*I like to think she did.*

*For all we know, before Mary welcomed  
God's action with delight, she fought  
what was happening to her and she  
resented the presumption of the divine.*

*For all we know, for at least a moment and  
probably longer, Mary was bewildered,  
distraught and lost.*

*The miracle we celebrate today may  
somehow seem more impossible than  
the idea that Mary got pregnant or that  
God became human. It's that in the  
face of devastation and from deep  
within the truth of heartbreak and  
desolation there might still  
come unbidden a moment of joy.*

*— Cheryl Lawrie*

*Starlight Service of Remembrance*

STARLIGHT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

December 10, 2014

Six thirty o'clock in the evening

PRELUDE *O Holy Night*

arr. Karen Khanagov

\*HYMN 2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Hyfrydol

\*PRAYER OF APPROACH *(in unison)*

Rev. Sheryl Johnson

**The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.  
The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.  
The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.  
We come to prepare a way for the Lord.  
We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives.  
For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.**

\*INVOCATION

THE LESSONS

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Psalm 23 *(in unison)*

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

John 11:25-27

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 38 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Carol

REFLECTION

Dr. Daniel Bagby

CALL TO PRAYER

Minister: God, this is the season for miracles and we pray for one this night.

Where there is sorrow,

**People: We pray for your grace to light the darkness.**

Minister: Where there is despair,

**People: We pray for your hope to light the darkness.**

Minister: Where there is hatred,

**People: We pray for your forgiveness to light the darkness.**

Minister: Where there is war,

**People: We pray for your love to light the darkness.**

Minister: Where there is confusion,

**People: We pray for your peace to light the darkness.**

Minister: Where there is injustice,

**People: We pray for your courage to light the darkness.**

Minister: Where there is fear,

**People: We pray for your joy to light the darkness.**

Minister: It is the season for miracles and we pray for one today:

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, may your light come into our world.**

- Cheryl Lawrie

LIGHTING CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE

*You are invited to come and light a candle in remembrance of past loss, whether through death, loss of a relationship, loss of job, loss of health, or in remembrance of other significant events; or to represent a hope for the coming year.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

\*HYMN 276 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Faithfulness

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Sheryl Johnson

Minister: Let us rejoice, for through God's grace the Prince of Peace comes to us!

**People: We come seeking the peace of Christ that passes all understanding.**

Minister: Let us greet one another as a sign of God's grace and Christ's peace.

Sisters and brothers, may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be

with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*All may now exchange a sign of peace, then please be seated.*

HOLY COMMUNION

\*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Minister: If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,"

**People: Even the darkness is not dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day.**

Minister: The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ,

**People: Who binds up the brokenhearted, heals all our infirmities, and relieves our burden of sin.**

Minister: So arise, shine; for your light has come,

**People: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN 9 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Veni Emmanuel

POSTLUDE *Still, Still Still*

arr. Chip Davis

*Thank you for sharing these important moments in worship with us. Our prayers this season attend your memories of loved ones who remain dear to you and missed.*

*As you exit, please note a few resources are available to you in the foyer.*

*In addition, know that you are invited to call one of the ministers during the next few days if a pastoral visit would be of value to you.*

THE LITURGISTS for the service are The Rev. Dr. Daniel P. Bagby  
and The Rev. Sheryl A.M. Johnson.  
THE ORGANIST for the service is Rev. Paul Honaker.  
THE VIOLINIST is Mrs. Loretta McCray.

### THE CHURCH STAFF

Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., *Pastor* • Daniel G. Bagby, Ph.D., *Minister of Pastoral Care*  
Robert P. Gallagher, D.M.A., *Minister of Music*

Sheryl A. M. Johnson, Th.M., *Interim Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation*  
Michael P. Kellett, Jr., M. Div, *Minister with Children and Youth*

Sandra L. Bassett, *Pastor's Secretary* • Billy Burford, *Intentional Interim Church Administrator*  
Margaret S. Collins, *Preschool Director* • Cassandra D. Ducca, *Communications Specialist*  
Zelda Goode, *Cook / Housekeeper* • Wendy Graves, *Preschool Administrative Assistant*  
LeAnne K. Lane, *Office Manager* • Raymond Street, *Sexton* • Chuck Ursiny, *Sexton*  
Susan S. Young, *Administrative Assistant*

James H. Slatton, Th.D., *Pastor Emeritus* • E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., *Minister of Music Emeritus*



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