

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

The Longest Night Worship Service

December 21, 2024



"If Love is the Sky" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church
December 21, 2024
4:30 pm

GATHERING MUSIC

Come, Though Long-Expected Jesus

MOVEMENT ONE: CREATING SPACE

WORDS OF WELCOME & INTENT

PRELUDE

El Noi de la Mare

Catalonian Carol

CALL TO WORSHIP

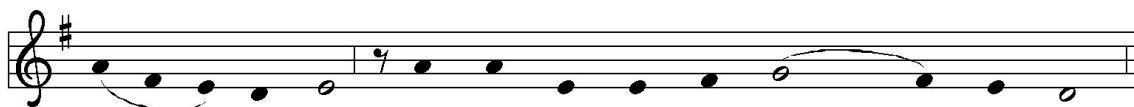
Creator God, hover over this space -
**for grief is like an ocean, pulling us back in,
and we need you in the midst of the waves.**

Creator God, hold us in your arms -
**for our hands are already full, carrying memories and heartache,
and we need you to carry us.**

Creator God, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, we turn to you.
**Thank you for staying through the longest nights.
We worship you.
Let it be so.**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

MOVEMENT TWO: ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GRIEF

VISUAL MEDITATION

RESPONDING: NAMING OUR GRIEF

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Still, My Soul

Sean Sibelius



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
 2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
 3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
 4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
 5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
 war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
 death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
 north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
 pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
 scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
 we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
 kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
 new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

MOVEMENT THREE: REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, we come to you with honest words and cries of lament. We trust that in this space our grief is safe with you. Speak to us through your scripture so that we might be able to draw even closer to your holy presence, witnessing your faithfulness through the ages. Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING.....Psalm 69:1-3, 13-18

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of connection and love, I confess -

There are people singing tonight, but my heart is too heavy for singing.

God of my heart and mind, I confess -

I know that I need you, but it's hard to let you in.

Grief builds walls where love had once been.

God of the here and now, I confess -

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

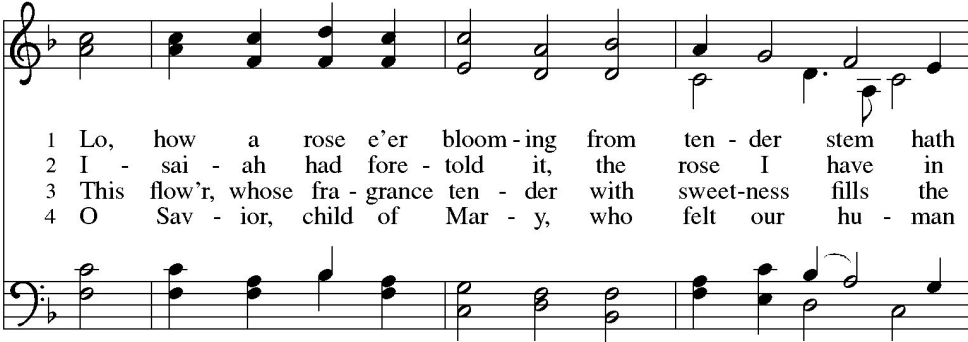
God of my prayers and dreams, I confess -

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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming


1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

MOVEMENT FOUR: GOING FORTH

SCRIPTURE READING.....Revelation 21:4; Psalm 147:3; Psalm 34: 18; Matthew 5:4

RESPOND: CLOSING PRAYER

God of creation, you gave us love. Thus tonight, as our hearts hurt due to love lost, we ask that you give us comfort. Flood our minds with memories of love and with gratitude for all those moments. And as we wade through this Christmas season, help us to catch glimpses of you in the midst of our heartache. God of light and hope, give us peace instead of resentment. Give us You instead of the mere thought of you. And if you can, give it to us sooner rather than later. Gratefully, we pray.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen

CANDLE LIGHTING

Comfort, Comfort

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

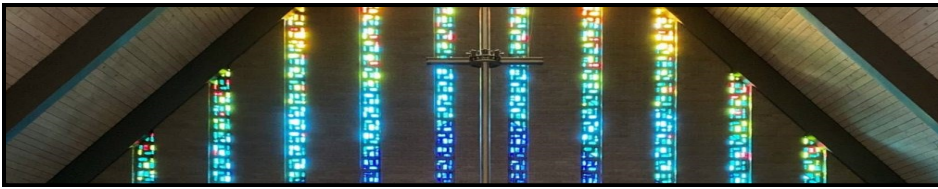
BLESSING & SENDING

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

POSTLUDE

One Small Child

arr. Jay Rouse



In Worship Today

Preacher.....Pastor Ashley Osborn
 Pianist/Organist.....Beth Brandt
 Director of Music.....Hsu-hui Wang
 Opener/Closer.....Ruth Larson & Jon Larson
 Greeter.....Ruth Larson & Jon Larson
 Readers.....Sara Blood & Dan Miller
 Musician.....Beth Brandt & Mary Hovden
 Altar Care.....Linda Franz

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Advent Theme written by A Sanctified Art, sanctifiedart.org

Valley of Peace Staff

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Director of Children, Youth and Family

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Reconciling In Christ Statement

We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and, by grace, is called a child of God, without exception and regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, age, station in life, or political affiliation.



Advent & Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, December 1	10:15 am	Advent 1 Worship
Sunday, December 8	10:15 am	Advent 2 Worship featuring the Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 15	10:15 am	Advent 3 Worship featuring the Christmas Music Celebration
Saturday, December 21	4:30 pm	The Longest Night Worship Service*
Sunday, December 22	10:15 am	Advent 4 Worship
Tuesday, December 24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service with Candle Lighting
Sunday, December 29	10:15 am	Lessons & Carols

All are welcome.

All services will be live streamed on Facebook.

*This service will not live-streamed.

More information can be found at www.valleyofpeace.org