

A vertical photograph of a night sky. A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned in the upper left quadrant. A thin, vertical line of light extends downwards from the star, fading as it descends. The sky is a deep, dark blue, speckled with numerous faint, distant stars. At the bottom of the frame, the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees are visible against the lighter blue of the sky. The word "Hope" is centered in the lower half of the image, written in a white, elegant serif typeface.

Hope

Hope Mennonite Church  
Longest Night Service  
December 21, 2022  
6:30 pm

Prelude

Cynthia Loganbill

Welcome

\*Call to worship

We gather as day turns to memory  
and night is drawn across the land.

**You are the light of the world;  
be a light in our darkness, O Christ.**

The dark of night can seem pale  
to one whose life is shrouded by sorrow.

**You are the light of the world;  
be a light in our darkness, O Christ.**

Where do we go when our eyes cannot see you?  
How can we sing when the light grows so dim?

**You are the light of the world;  
be a light in our darkness, O Christ.**

Find us in the nighttime of grief,  
illumine the pathways through our loss,  
and guide us toward the dawn.

**You are the light of the world;  
be a light in our darkness, O Christ. Amen.**

\*"We Come"

Voices Together 225

Silent reflections

Unison Prayer

based on Job 38:19 & John 1:4

**Which is the way to the home of the light, O God?  
When will we know the rising of joy?  
You have set the patterns of the night and the day,  
you are the life that is the light to all people.  
Come to us now, O God,  
and to all who know where the darkness lives.  
Come, and lead us to the home of the light. Amen.**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs. 1-3

Voices Together 241

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Meditation

“Stopping Time”

Randy Quinn

A ritual of remembering  
Candle lighting

“Love Has Come”

Voices Together 258

Benediction

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Welcome to Hope’s first Longest Night service; a service designed to offer a place to honor the sense of loss many people feel at this time of the year. Taking place on the evening of the winter solstice, we will use the imagery of the long cold night and provide a place to ponder and reflect with others who are experiencing their own grief. May this service touch your heart and soul.

