



The Longest Night Service
Saturday, December 18, 2010
5 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church

Music for Meditation Maureen McCauley

Opening Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

O God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you this evening. We come before you in need of peace, grateful for life and ever aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with ourselves and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. *Amen.*

First Reading *Isaiah 43: 1-2, 4-7*

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, 'Give them up',

and to the south, 'Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made.'

Psalm 139 (*Said in unison by all*)

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

Second Reading *Romans 8: 26-27, 37-39*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gradual Hymn O Come O Come Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!**

**O come thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
 Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily The Rev. David A. Canan

Candle Lighting Litany of Remembrance

We light this Advent candle to remember those persons who we loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us in this season which anticipates Christmas.

***People* May God's eternal love surround them.**

(Pause for silence.)

We light this second candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health, the loss of dreams. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to You, O God, asking that into our open hands, You will place the gift of peace.

***People* Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.**

(Pause for silence.)

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and for some of us years of blue times. We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, the pain. We open ourselves to receive healing and hope.

***People* Let us remember that the Light of Christ defeats darkness.**

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

***People* Let us remember the One who shows the way and who goes with us into our tomorrows.**

(Pause for silence.)

Priest:

Compassionate Lord Jesus, there are those among us who are grieving over what might have been. A death or loss has changed our experience of Christmas. We find ourselves adrift, alone, in pain, feeling blue. Please be near us this night and during the remainder of this season. *Amen.*

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offering

Tonight, rather than placing money in the offering plates, you are invited to come forward and light a candle to place in the bowl of sand, praying silently for what God could offer you and those for whom you pray during this holiday time.

During the candle lighting, harp by Maureen

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you!

ALL **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts!

ALL **We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

ALL **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Celebrant It is indeed right, O God, for you made us and before us, you made the whole earth. What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you to remember me.”

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of earth and fruit of human labor.

In these, Jesus promised to be present, through these Christ can make us whole.

Merciful God, send now in kindness, your Holy Spirit, to settle upon this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this world until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

All this we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ, by him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, God of all Mercy, now and forever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

(Communion will be served as the congregation stands)

In the Lord

Taize

Piano

In the Lord I'll be ev er thank ful, in the Lord I will re-

The first system of musical notation for the piano accompaniment of 'In the Lord'. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: 'In the Lord I'll be ev er thank ful, in the Lord I will re-'.

joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid; lift up your voi- ces, the Lord is

The second system of musical notation. The lyrics are: 'joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid; lift up your voi- ces, the Lord is'.

near, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near. In the

The third system of musical notation. The lyrics are: 'near, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near. In the'.

Closing Prayer

A prayer attributed to St. Francis (said by all in unison)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, union;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen*

The Blessing

Remember whom you love

Remember what is sacred

Remember what is true

Remember that you will die

and that this day is a gift

Remember how you wish to live and the blessing of the God of

Love, creator, redeemer, and sanctifier be with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Silent Night

Silent Night Holy Night all is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin, mother and child

Holy infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent Night, Holy Night shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing alleluia

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent Night, Holy Night

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus Lord at thy birth

Jesus Lord at thy birth