

**David's UCC on December 20, 2020**

**Longest Night of the Year Advent  
Worship**

**Online Worship Bulletin**



Opening Music –*Lyn Morton*

Welcome – *Rev. Dr. Brian Q. Newcomb*

Gathering Words (paraphrases Isaiah 9: 2) –

One: Come, let us be about our preparations for a new advent of love among us.

**Many: The wastelands of life around us cannot shut out the promise of life-giving water.**

One: Hatred and warfare, viral pandemic, injustice, mass shootings, diseases, and suffering, are not the last word, for they are not of God.

**Many: We hear again the promise of peace, coming in the one who lived Shalom among all people.**

One: We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness.

**Many: We can feel again the joy that comes through partnership in the gospel.**

One: May our worship recall us to what is centered in life; to the One who gives us breath and purpose in life.

**Many: We come to embrace the new advent, to be renewed in faith, hope, and love.**

Invocation –

Litany of Losses – (Lighting the Advent Candles) – *Rev. Michelle Wilkey*

First Candle: The Loss of Life

**All: We mourn this loss of life. We honor and remember these beloveds. We pray for comfort and peace.**

Second Candle: The Loss of Livelihood

**All: We mourn this loss of livelihood. We honor and remember the dreams now deferred. We pray for sustenance and resilience.**

Third Candle: The Loss of Love

**All: We mourn this loss of love. We honor and remember the work of prophets who proclaim justice. We pray for compassion and change.**

Fourth Candle: Loss of Liveliness

**All:** ***We mourn this loss of liveliness. We honor and remember that each person is precious and whole. We pray for recovery and renewed vigor.***

Fifth Candle: More Light

**All:** ***And now we light a fifth candle. Just as we will do later this week on Christmas Eve. We light this as a sign of our belief.***

Order of Scriptures and Lighting Candles –

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1 – 5, 28 – 31, Lighting a candle

**Unison prayer: Spirit of God, calm the turmoil in our souls so that we can hear your voice, and know the comfort of being lifted by your strength and care. Amen.**

Scripture: Psalm 22: 1 – 11, Lighting a candle

**Unison prayer: Spirit of God, shine like this candle in the darkness, lighting the way for all who feel abandoned, forsaken and forgotten. Amen.**

Scripture: Luke 2: 1 – 7, Lighting a candle

**Unison prayer: God-with-us, let those who are far from home, and those who feel like strangers in a strange place, know and feel that there is a place for everyone with you and your people. Amen.**

Scripture: Luke 6: 17 – 23, Lighting a candle

**Unison prayer: Loving, Gentle Jesus, with this candle bring warmth and light to those who hunger, and thirst, and weep. Amen.**

Scripture: John 11: 17 – 21, 28 – 36, Lighting a candle

**Unison prayer: God-in-Christ, you know what it is like to experience limitations, pain and death. Be with us and with those we love when suffering comes. Bring us in time to your healing and hope. Amen.**

Scripture: Matthew 11: 28 – 29, Lighting a candle

**Unison prayer: Jesus our friend, because you carry the yoke with us, our burdens are bearable and we can carry on; in you we find our rest. Amen.**

Scripture: Revelation 21: 1 – 5a, Lighting a candle

**Unison prayer: Creative, amazing God, the vision of a world without tears, a new creation, seems far from the reality of our lives. Bring your promise closer to us in this holy season. We await your coming with deep longing and holy joy. Amen.**

Prayers of God's People, The Lord's Prayer –

**Our Father Mother in heaven, may your name be made holy, may your dominion come, may your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need. 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 yours is the dominion, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Benediction/fare thee well until next time –

Closing Music –

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