

Words for meditation (to be read silently before the service begins):
Psalm 28:1-2

1 To you, Lord, I call;
 you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.
For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.
2 Hear my cry for mercy
 as I call to you for help,
 as I lift up my hands
 toward your Most Holy Place.

Music for gathering

Welcome

A call to worship

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

**All: 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.

**All: 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?

**All: 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.

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

Hymn

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

PH 329 vs. 1-3

PH 194 vs. 1-3

Silent reflection

Prayer (based on Job 28:19 and John 1:4)

Leader: Which is the way to the home of the light, O God?

When will we know the rising of joy?

**All: You have set the patterns of the night and the day,
You are the life that is 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.**

An Advent Lament

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel PH 328 vs. 1
 Psalm 74:1-11

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel PH 328, vs. 2
 Psalm 74:12-17

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel PH 328 vs. 4
 Psalm 74:18-23

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel PH 328 vs. 6

Lord, remember us.

Have regard for your covenant.

We need your redemption.

Where hands have brought about destruction, desolation, and desecration,
Where words have
Condemned, betrayed, and deceived,
Where silence has
Concealed, isolated, and ignored -

O come, Emmanuel.

Shine light in the dark places,
Speak peace in the lands haunted by violence,
And ransom your people.

**As we remember your steadfast love and faithfulness,
We wait expectantly;
We rejoice in your coming.
Amen.**

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Stories of the light

The light of creation - Genesis 1:1-5

**All: You are the light of the world;
Be a light in our darkness, O Christ.**
The light of the exodus - Exodus 13:17-22

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

The light of prophecy - Isaiah 25:6-9

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

The light of hope - Luke 1:46-55

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

Message **Luke 1:46-55**

A ritual of remembering

Light candles at this point

Hymn *All Praise to You, My God, This Night* PH 441 vs. 1-4

Blessing

Closing Song *Silent Night (Peace, Peace)*

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing "alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!"

3. 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.

Service adapted from "Words for Worship 2, 308, edited by Diane Zaerr Brenneman, 2009 by Herald Press, Scottdale, Pa."



Candlelight Service

**Emden Christian Reformed
Church
Sunday, December 20, 2020
6:00 PM**