

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

OPENING POEM

written by Rev. Sarah Are Speed

HYMN

"Lost In The Night"

ELW, #243



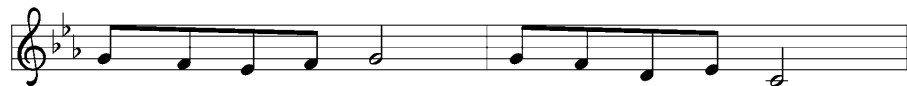
1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,  
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?  
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,  
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,  
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,  
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,  
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.  
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?  
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.  
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt.  
 Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune  
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God, we do not have night vision. **The sun has set on the world as we know it and we do not have night vision. So today we come to your Word hoping that this ancient truth found in scripture will feel like a hand in the dark. Guide our feet. Move us through this wilderness season. Tilt our heads upward to see the stars, and let your Word be a blanket in the cold, a light on the horizon, and a friend to walk alongside. We do not have night vision, but we know we have You. Move through us. Move among us and move through us. Gratefully we pray, in Jesus' name, amen.**

READINGS: Lamentations 3:21-24  
 John 14:27-28

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**  
 Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS After each petition: And so together we sing...**Refrain: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER  
CANDLE LIGHTING  
COMMUNAL SENDING

We are here. I see you and your pain. I see you and your hope. You are my neighbor. We belong to one another. We are not in this alone. Thanks be to God for the love that binds us. Amen.

BENEDICTION

As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace. Dawn is coming. **Amen.**

HYMN "In The Bleak Midwinter" ELW, #294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter, a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

DISMISSAL Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

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