



December 21, 2020



We exist to welcome ALL people by sharing the Love of Christ!

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Generous and gracious God, we look to you for compassion.

All: Thank you for your presence this night.

Leader: Overwhelmed by our burdens we easily forget that you never leave us alone.

All: Your steadfast love for us never falters.

Leader: By coming together we find assurance and comfort that we do not suffer this longest night alone.

All: You have given us strength to live through this night.

Leader: Turn us to reach out to those whose night is also long and help us to feel your healing presence in our lives.

All: Assure us that we do not suffer alone. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter (v 1, 4)

UMH 221

***In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.***

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.***

Psalms 126

Rev. Sean Stanfield

POEM

Robin Stanfield

"God is with us in our suffering, loving us, walking with us, comforting us. I do not believe God is the cause or author of such suffering, I do not believe God "allows" bad things to happen. I can't imagine why God would "allow" us to suffer. I believe in a God who is always working for good, a God who is somehow able to take horrible, rotten things and create something out of the rubble. God came into the world amidst violence, oppression, and despair and was able to bring life from that darkness, and I believe that God is with each one of us in our challenges and suffering, comforting us and consoling us and trying to bring good out of that which was so bad. And that is what I think makes God, God."

~Loren Richmond

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 21:1-4

Rev. Sean Stanfield

MEDITATION

Rev. Sean Stanfield

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

The Empty Chair

Rev. Sean Stanfield

SPECIAL MUSIC

***HYMN**

Some Children See Him

Lauren Sims Robinson

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

UMH 474

***Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.***

***When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.***

***When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.***

SENDING FORTH

*Please stand as you are able

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