



The Longest Night

December 15, 2025

*Cultivating a community for all to belong,
rooted in Jesus' way of love and justice.*



PRELUDE

GATHERING CHANT “Christ, You Are Light” (see back cover)

WELCOME

GATHERING WORDS “Let This Darkness Be a Bell Tower”
by Rainer Maria Rilke (trans. Joanna Macy)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG “My Heart Will Not Fear”
by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

God is our light; my heart will not fear. *Repeat 2x*

God is our love; my heart will not fear. *Repeat 2x*

God is our home; our hearts will not fear. *Repeat 2x*

READING “Collecting Light”
by Deborah Cooper

COMMUNITY CANDLE LIGHTING

Please come forward, if you wish, and light a candle.

During the candle lighting, we will sing “Christ, You Are Light.”

SCRIPTURE Luke 1–2 (Adapted)

Please sing verses of “Before the Waters Nourished Earth” that are interspersed with the reading, as the leader indicates.

Before the waters nourished earth or night imagined
morning

a Love conceived the universe and revealed in its forming.

This Love remained as time revealed the loss of Eden’s glory
and, grieving, holds in memory each tragic human story.

Despair, so deep it bears no name, or sorrows paralyzing
cannot revoke Love’s faithful claim to dwell within our
dying.

The love that called creation good all goodness still is
bringing.

This Love turns death again to life and silence into singing.

SPECIAL MUSIC Byron Almén

HEALING PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

Abigail's Song by Marie Gold

READING

"Once the World Was Perfect"
by Joy Harjo

CHANT

"Christ, You Are Light"

BLESSING

by Ruth Burgess

Christ, You Are Light

Christ, you are light for those who fol-low you. You
come to bring to all the light of life.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Christ, You Are Light'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the lyrics 'Christ, you are light for those who fol-low you. You' and the second system covers 'come to bring to all the light of life.' The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Words & Music: Taizé Community
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Thanks to those who are taking part in worship today.

Valet Mary Jean Korsmo
Usher Kris Felbeck
Readers Carolyn Bernemann, Schanan Harris
Lisa Hubinger, Linda Kelsy
Special Music Ann Sather, violin
Linda Valerian, soprano
Tech Support Greg Hubinger, Scott Williams