

ELIZABETHTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

The Longest Night

December 21, 2024, 6 p.m.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting

Even in our endings,

ALL: fill us with hope for new beginnings.

Even as our minds race with anxiety,

ALL: fill us with peace that surpasses understanding.

Even in our deepest grief,

ALL: fill us with joy and laughter.

Even in a world of hate and fear,

ALL: fill us with your love, O God.

We come to worship, calling on God who is with us in all seasons and spaces, comforting and challenging us to seek light in times of darkness.

Hymn

Comfort, comfort, O my people, #176
verses 1 and 3

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Meditation

Sung Response

God of our life, #486
verses 1 and 2

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Light Individual Candles

Sung Response

God of our life, #486
verse 3

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Words of Comfort / Affirmation of Faith

The first words of Genesis tell us that in the beginning, God was creating.

ALL: We believe in God who is at work in all our beginnings.

In Revelation, we hear Jesus proclaim, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

ALL: We believe in God who is with us through it all, in every beginning, and in every ending that comes before.

And so from beginning to end, from Genesis to Revelation, from the first day to the last, we are held by our God who knows our name.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song

Creator of the stars of night, #177

verses 1 and 3

Sending Blessing

Adapted from Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland, A Sanctified Art LLC,
sanctifiedart.org.