



Waterloo North Mennonite Church
The Longest Night Service
December 21, 2019 7:30 p.m.

**“The light shines on inside of the darkness, and
the darkness will not overcome it.”** (*John 1:5*)

Please pick up a bowl to hold as you enter the sanctuary.

Gathering Music

Call to worship:

Tonight we gather
with friends.

We come as we are to God.

Tonight we gather
with hopes and with questions.

We come as we are to God.

Tonight we gather
with doubts and with dreaming.

We come as we are to God.

Tonight we come as we are to God.

And God has promised to meet us here.

Welcome and Prayer

Song: HWB (blue) #172 *O come, O come, Immanuel* (vv 1,5,6)

Holding our empty bowls

2 Corinthians 4:7-10, Isaiah 65:17-25

Blessing for Waiting – Jan Richardson

Song: HWB (blue) #176 *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

Naming our Losses

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sung Response: Don't be afraid

Lighting the candle in memory of our loss

Sung Response: Don't be afraid

Lighting the candle of compassion and community

Sung Response: Don't be afraid

Lighting the candle of wisdom

Sung Response: Don't be afraid

Lighting the candle of faith

Sung Response: Don't be afraid

(Candle lighting Service sourced from the Iona Community, Blue Christmas)

Filling our bowls

You will be invited to light a candle and place it in your bowl as you reflect on where the light might accompany you through the dark nights of this season.

Silent reflection

Song: STS (purple) #3 *Come, Light of the world*

Prayer of Response (ending with Lord's Prayer – see last page)

Song: HWB (blue) #178 *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Blessing and Sending (foyer)

With gratitude and respect, we recognize that we are worshipping on the traditional land that once belonged to the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples. We regret the lack of respect given to the Indigenous people in the past, and pledge to work for justice and reconciliation.

The Lord's Prayer

(from The New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of
the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.