

# *The Longest Night*



Welcome to  
**WEST LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Our vision is to Invite, Embrace, and Empower all to be the family of God in Christ*

***The Longest Night Service***  
***December 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.***

**PRELUDE**

*“Carol Selections”*

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN**

*“Light of the World”*

TFWS #2204

**BRINGING OF THE LIGHT**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**FIRST READING**

Meditation

Matthew 11:28-29 (NLT)

**HYMN**

*“Amazing Grace”*

UMH #378

**SECOND READING**

Meditation

Psalm 34:17-18 (NLT)

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“Come and Find the Quiet Center”*  
Marnell McCarthy, soloist; Judith Alvarez, piano

Murray, White

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**VIDEO**

*“Just Be Held”*

Casting Crown

**THIRD READING**

Meditation

Psalm 46 (NLT)

**HYMN**

*"Spirit Song"*

UMH #347

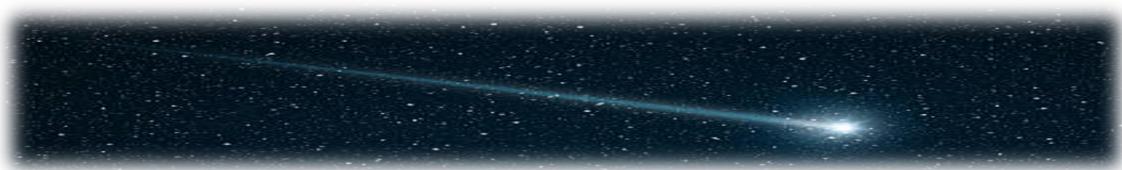
**HOLY COMMUNION****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION****RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 27:1, 5-8, 13-14 (CEB)

**PRAYER****CLOSING HYMN**

*"Silent Night"*

UMH #239

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER****BLESSING/DISMISSAL**

Thank you to all who made this service possible:

Pastor Pat Goshert  
Griefshare Team  
Prayer Ministry Team  
Stephen Ministers  
Marnell McCarthy, soloist  
Judith Alvarez, piano  
David Haas, A/V technician



15 Woodside Avenue  
West Lawn, PA 19609-1664  
610-678-5611  
[office@westlawnumc.org](mailto:office@westlawnumc.org)  
[www.westlawnumc.org](http://www.westlawnumc.org)

# **Blessing for the Longest Night**

by Jan Richardson

*"All throughout these months as the shadows have lengthened, this blessing has been gathering itself, making ready, preparing for this night. It has practiced walking in the dark, traveling with its eyes closed, feeling its way by memory by touch by the pull of the moon even as it wanes.*

*So, believe me when I tell you this blessing will reach you even if you have not light enough to read it; it will find you even though you cannot see it coming. You will know the moment of its arriving by your release of the breath you have held so long; a loosening of the clenching in your hands, of the clutch around your heart; a thinning of the darkness that had drawn itself around you.*

*This blessing does not mean to take the night away, but it knows its hidden roads, knows the resting spots along the path, knows what it means to travel in the company of a friend.*

*So, when this blessing comes, take its hand. Get up. Set out on the road you cannot see. This is the night when you can trust that any direction you go, you will be walking toward the dawn."*