

# the longest night

**A SERVICE OF HOPE, HEALING AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

December 21, 7:00PM

Vienna Presbyterian Church  
124 Park Street NE  
Vienna, VA 22180  
[www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org)

# *The Longest Night Service*

*Tuesday, December 21, 2021*

*7:00 p.m.*

Prelude

\*Words of Welcome

\*Call to Worship

L: Strengthen the feeble hands; steady the knees that give way;

**P: Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come...He will come to save you.”**

L: Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

**P: They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.**

**All: Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

\*Hymn #527

*Near to the Heart of God*

## **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**L:** We light the first candle and remember those we have loved and lost. We pause to recall their names, their faces, their voices. We give thanks to God for them, and for His love that binds us to them in life and death.

**P: May God's presence surround us with eternal love.**  
(Lighting of the first candle)

**L:** We light the second candle and name our losses: the loss of relationships, the loss of employment, the loss of health. We gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking for the gift of peace from His hands.

**P: May God's presence restore, refresh, and renew us.**  
(Lighting of the second candle)

**L:** We light the third candle and recognize ourselves in this season. We pause and recall: the disbelief, the anger, the emptiness, the sadness...family, friends, and all who have stood with us in support.

**P: May God's presence show us that dawn defeats night, and that light shines in the darkness.**  
(Lighting of the third candle)

L: We light the fourth candle and call to mind God's promises which nurture our faith and kindle our hope. We affirm that, in Jesus Christ, God shares our life, experiences our pain and suffering, and leads us into new life.

**P: May God reveal Christ to us as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

(Lighting of the fourth candle)

\*Hymn #543

*Abide with Me*

*(As we are singing this hymn you are invited, as you feel led, to take a flower and place it on the communion table in honor and remembrance of your loved one.)*

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:28-30

Homily

Rev. Dr. Hope Italiano Lee

“Rest Beside the Weary Road”

\*Hymn

*Invitation to the Lord's Table*

Communion

\*Hymn #38

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\* *Please stand if able*

## *In Remembrance*

Jean Abbott

Christine Chun

Sam Adcock's parents

Porter Coggeshall

Curt Anderson

John Cornejo

Elizabeth Arnall's loved one

George Cronin

Lois Graves Barnhill

Beth Crowder's mother

Doris Bassett

Jeannette Crutchfield

Brian Birky's loved one

Valarie Dargan's husband

Margaret Boyle

Jay Diccico

Hilda Brokaw

Sheila Doyle

Roger Gilroy Bronson

Brittany Dunbar

Ty Brooks

Suzanne Eberhard

Becky Burgess

Lee Emery

Mike Chapman

The Emory's loved one

William "Billy" Evans  
Dell Ewing  
Chris Falls' mother  
Bonnie Graves Ferrone  
Shateya Folks' loved ones  
Linda Gabris' brother  
Francis Charles Ganis  
Joan Theresa Ganis  
Charles Aloysius Ganis  
Clara "Lou" Glass  
Beth Goodsell  
Steve Graves  
Lisa Marino Hafer  
James Michael Haisler  
Robert Hall  
Diane Harshbarger  
Vivian Helsley  
Raymond Helsley  
Lara Holsinger's niece, Lily

Barbara Hough's son,  
Wendell  
Joan Houston's brother, Jack  
Ann Rivers Hutcheson  
Billy Jarrell  
Natalie Jensen  
Betsy Johnston's father  
Nancy Jolley  
Robert Donald Jones  
Marsha Jump  
David Kall's mother  
Gianna Grace Kashchy  
Dale Killion  
Charlotte Klingman  
Beth Kraemer's ex-husband  
Ralph Landis  
George Lee's father  
Robin LeMunyon's father  
Howard Liebengood  
Mrs. Ray Long

Linda Lyon's friend, Rick

Roy Clifton Malone

Keathley Land Malone

Dean Manson's stepfather

Nancy Martin

Harris Miller

Lynn Miller

Clay Munroe

Austin Murga

Tricia Murray-Farris' mother

Catharine Noland

Paul Edward Owens

Joe Paul

Rose Peele

Robert Peldo

Joseph Piorkowski

Marcia Potter

Baker Richards

Joan Roberti

Clarence Robinson

Edward James Roccella

Nita Sesin

Loren Shepard

Lorene Shepard

Elizabeth Sheridan's mother

James Ralph Sides

Terry Sisk's mother

Jody Smith's husband

Rhoda Spohn's father

Ellen Stensrud's loved one

Rebecca Stephenson's father

Jeanne Stover

Catherine Straley's brother,  
Wendell

Richard Strean

Gretchen Suskovic's loved  
one

Warren Swenson

Maurine Thomas

Herb Thompson's wife

Lois Tillett

Martha Toms

Nancy England Tysdal

Betty Vickers

Mary Ward

Jim Ward

Diana Watkins' husband

C.N. "Kirk" Wayne

Robert Marshall Weiss

Doug Welsh

Evelyn Wiesnet

James Richard (Dick)  
Williams

Roberto Zambrana's loved  
ones

