



Be still and know that I am God.

A quiet reflective service of comfort and hope
offered by the
Orchard Valley United Church

Welcome

♪ *Stay With Us Through the Night* ♪

*Stay with us through the night. Stay with us through the pain.
Stay with us, blessed stranger, till the morning breaks again.*

*Stay with us through the night. Stay with us through the grief.
Stay with us, blessed stranger, till the morning brings relief.*

Call to Worship

One: Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness.

All: *Let us be still in the presence of God.*

One: It is night after a long day.

All: *What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.*

One: The night is dark.

All: *Let our fears of the darkness, both in the world and in ourselves, rest in you.*

One: The night is quiet.

All: *Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace.*

One: The night heralds the dawn.

All: *Help us to know your presence in our midst. Help us to know that we are not alone, and in knowing this, may we find strength to look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.*

One: In the name of Emmanuel, God with us, we pray.

All: *Amen.*

Introduction to the Candle Lighting

♪ *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* ♪

*O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Song of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting the Candle of Grief

A Reading John 11:32-35

*O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from ev'ry foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting the Candle of Pain

A Reading Matthew 11:28-29

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily,
to us the paths of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting the Candle of Memories

A Reading Psalm 139:7-12

*O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home,
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the pathway to misery.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting the Candle of Love

A Reading

John 14:1–4, 18–19

*O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Time of Remembrance and Prayer

Light a candle in remembrance of someone. Reflect on how they were a light in your life. Or light a candle for a burden you are carrying...

Special Music

A Litany of Prayer and Hope

One: We pause now to remember those persons whom we have loved and lost. We remember their names, their faces, their voices, their touch – the memory that binds them to us in this season and always.

All: *May God's eternal love surround them.*

One: We gather up the pain of the past or fear of the future which we offer to God to redeem: the pain of the loss of a relationship, a job, health, or a loss which we name quietly in our hearts.

All: *Into our lives, O God, bring your gifts of hope and trust. Touch our points of pain, restoring and renewing us.*

One: We remember all of your beloved creation, O God, which groans in anguish and longs for deliverance; we lift up the sufferings of the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, the victims of natural disasters here and elsewhere, and the victims of injustice the world over.

All: Holy One, save your world; save your people.

One: Let us remember ourselves this Christmas season – the disbelief, the tears, the tiredness, the anger, the tender memories, the warmth and kindness of friends and family.

All: Let us remember that dawn defeats the darkness.

One: Let us remember the gift of hope God gives us in Christ's coming into the world. God shares our life, and promises us a time and a place of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember the one who shows the way, and who goes with us.

Invitation to a Labyrinth Walk

Lighting the Christ Candle

A Reading John 1:1-2

♪ *Silent Night* ♪

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.*

*Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,*

*heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.*

*Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,*

*with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!*

Blessing

One: Mysterious God, confounding our expectations,
meeting us where we least expect to find you,

All: *stay with us now.*

One: Child of the manger, healing our pain,
sharing our weakness,

All: *stay with us now.*

One: Source of life, birth of God within our own experience,

All: *stay with us now.*

One: Stay with us in all our grief, our pain, our fears and our
struggles; stay with us in our journey,

**All: *Walk beside us, live within us, stay with us now,
stay with us always. Amen.***

**You are invited to stay after the service for a time of
refreshment and hospitality.**

Special thanks to all who participated in this service.

