



A Longest Night Service

December 21, 2021 at 7 p.m.
First Baptist Church
& First Christian Church

Prelude

Melanie Manges, piano

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lisa Williams Hood

Hymn of Winter

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

#196

(Verse 1) In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

(Verse 2) Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Andrew Guthrie

Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 3:21-24

Rev. Kim Brewer

New Testament Reading

John 14: 27-28

Rev. Andrew Guthrie

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-5

Rev. Hood

Hymn of Winter

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

#196

(Verse 3) Angels and archangels may have gathered there,

Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;

But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,

Worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

(Verse 4) What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what can I give him: give my heart.

Invitation to Prayer

Rev. Amanda Guthrie

“The Hurting Times¹”

Nathan & Becky Bliss

Prayers of the People

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

Prayers of Light

Rev. Andrew Guthrie

“Wherever You Are²”

Nathan & Becky Bliss

Communal Sending

Rev. Amanda Guthrie

We are here.

We are here.

I see you and your pain.

I see you and your pain.

I see you and your hope.

I see you and your hope.

You are my neighbor.

You are my neighbor.

¹ “The Hurting Times.” Written by Becky Bliss, performed by Barnaby Bright, produced by Nathan Bliss, Gus Berry, & Hugo Dunn-Vereker. 2020. [youtube.com/watch?v=Eb7aUpuz88U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb7aUpuz88U).

² “Wherever You Are,” written & produced by Barnaby Bright (Nathan & Becky Bliss), barnabybright.com. Featuring cello by Sascha Groschang, mixed by Bryan Cook & mastered by Jett Galindo at “The Bakery. Featuring visual art by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Lauren Wright Pittman, and Hannah Garrity. Video by Lisle Gwynn Garrity, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

We belong to one another.

We belong to one another.

We are not in this alone.

We are not in this alone.

Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.

Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.

Amen.

Benediction

Rev. Hood

Postlude

Melanie Manges, piano

Worship Leaders In This Service:

Rev. Amanda Guthrie, Chaplain, First Christian Church

Rev. Andrew Guthrie, Pastor, First Christian Church

Melanie Manges, Organist/Pianist, First Baptist Church

Aurie Swartz, Director of Communications & Technology, First Baptist Church

Rev. Kim Brewer, Associate Pastor & Seminary Intern, First Baptist Church

Rev. Lisa Williams Hood, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church

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