

LUTHER PLACE LENTEN SERVICE

JOURNEYING WITH GOD AT NIGHT



The Rev. Karen Brau | Senior Pastor
Justin Fitch | Director of Music

+ Entering into Our Time Together

+ Singing – Within Our Darkest Night (Taizé)

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The first system of musical notation is in G major and 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are "With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the".

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are "fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -".

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are "way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the".

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are "fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way."

+ Listening - A reading from *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor

The twilight zone [of a cave] is the place of exchange... On this threshold between dark and light, it is still possible to go either way: farther in or back out. It is still possible to see what you are about to lose. Now that I am in the mouth of the [cave], I look back at the bright circle of the day, fringed with green vines and shot full of light... Branches creak and birds call. Turning back to face the cave again, I see only gray: gray stone, gray shadow, gray space. There is no music here, no warmth or food. But I did not come for any of those. I came for the dark, and there is plenty of that.

+ Taking Silence and Listening for God

+ Praying and Confessing Together

God of vision and insight, we confess our fear of the dark and our aversion to blindness. Help us remember that vision does not mean insight; blind does not mean inferior; and the darkness is not synonymous with sin and despair. There are insights we can only discover in the dark. Grant us courage to explore the shadowy world. Grant us patience as our eyes adjust to the darkness. Open the eyes of our soul. Help us to learn to see the light that is most visible in darkness. In the name of the one who came "so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." AMEN.

+ Singing – Our Eyes Are Turned (Taizé)



O - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num Je - sum,
Our eyes are turned to the Lord Je - sus Christ.

o - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num nos - trum.
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our Sav - ior.

+ Listening - A reading: Psalm 146

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

+ Taking Silence and Listening for God

+ Praying Together as We Live with Lent

+ Singing - Bless the Lord My Soul (Taizé)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

+ Praying and Blessing

May the peace of God, which passes all human understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Our Lord. And may God's peace bless and sustain us as we are living with Lent and journeying with God at night. Amen.

+ Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**