



The Beckley Presbyterian Church
203 South Kanawha Street
Beckley, West Virginia 25801



**A Service of Reflection for
The Longest Night
December 20, 2017**

“The mission of Beckley Presbyterian Church is to glorify God through the nurturing and equipping of our congregation to manifest our faith throughout God’s creation with love, joy, hope, and open hearts.”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*If you are able, please stand for items marked **
Portions in bold type are for congregational participation.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE GATHER AND CONFESS

PRELUDE *What Child Is This* David Lanz

CALL TO WORSHIP *Now it is Evening* David Haas
(Listen as the cantor sings, and respond by singing the last phrase back to the cantor)

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
All Things were made by God, and without God nothing came
to be. What came to be through God was Life, and this life was
the Light of the World.

Many: **The Light Shines in Darkness, and the darkness can not
overcome it.**

* **HYMN 89** *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*
(Please join the cantor in singing the Refrain and listen as the cantor sings the verses)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Page 616
Everything has it's Time

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN 473** *Shepherd Me, O God*
(Please join the cantor & choir in singing the refrain, and listen as the verses are sung)

THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 40:1-11 Page 667

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

As you entered the church this evening, you were given a memory star. Please write on your star your concerns for others and for yourself as the hymn is sung. You are welcome to join in the singing as well!

* HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

MOMENTS OF SILENCE

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

One: We (light the first candle to) remember those whom we have loved and lost.

We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies.

We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation when all creation waits for the light.

ALL: We Remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them. (*moments of silence*)

One: We (light the second candle to) remember the pain of loss: Loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, loss of joy.

We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You. Asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of Shalom, the gift of Peace.

ALL: We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future. (*moments of silence*)

One: We (light this candle to) remember ourselves at this season of the year.

One: We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us, years that have been heavy with our burdens
We accept and lay before you the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain.
We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves and you for all we have suffered.

We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness and in the knowledge of our own mortality

All: We remember that, though we have journeyed far and, while lost, we may have turned away from the light, The Light itself has not failed.

All: We remember that, though the winter be upon us and though the night is dark, with the turning of creation the dawn will come, and dawn defeats darkness!

(moments of silence)

One: We (light the fourth candle to) remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the stories of all our holidays in this winter season, which begin in abandonment, insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable.

We remember that the loving God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this life with us, promises us comfort and peace.

All: We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.

* HYMN 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Verses one & Six

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(after each petition, you will hear)*

One: Lord, hear our prayer

All: and in Your merciful love, answer

OFFERING OF LIGHT

One: Our celebrations in this season give us many stories to recall. One recalls how a few brave fighters defended their temple and its sacred lamp which had only one days oil left, but it burned for eight days!

Another tells how, in a little hill town, a homeless couple with tax problems took shelter in a stable among the animals and gave birth to a light that would change the world

All: Gentle God of love, help us reach out together for the light of faith, for renewal, for recovery, and for a new day coming.

Grant that hope may come to rest in our hearts, and let it go forth with us into the darkness.

SHARING OF LIGHT *(Participants are invited to come forward and place their memory star on the Communion Table. At anytime you may light a votive candle.)*

ANTHEM

Night of Silence

Kantor

(at the end of the anthem, you are invited to sing SILENT NIGHT with the choir)

* **HYMN 122**

Silent Night

*Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm, All is bright
Round you Virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent Night Holy Night,
Son of God loves pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth*

One: Another day will come, O God
We know not what it may bring forth, but make us ready for
Whatever it may be.
If we are to stand up, help us to stand bravely
If we are to sit still, help us to sit quietly
If we are to lie low, help us to do it patiently,
If we are to do nothing, help us to do it gallantly
Make these words more than words and give us the
Spirit of Thy Peace.

All: Amen

One: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you!

*Let us greet one another with the Peace of the Lord.
You may turn to one another and offer a sign of peace.*

At the conclusion of the service you may take your candle home with you. All are welcome to continue in peace and fellowship in the Wither Spoon Room where refreshments are provided.

Memory stars will be placed on a tree in the balcony of the church for the duration of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

STAFF

The Reverend Jim Burton, Pastor, Ext. 6
Toni Mullins, Admin. Assist./Treasurer, Ext. 3
Tim Waugh, Artist-In-Residence, Ext. 4
Jeff Harris, Sexton
Roberta Brock, Nursery Supervisor
Sharon Volpe, Host

Jb406@live.com
tmullins@beckleypres.org
bpc.wv.music@gmail.com

OFFICE

Monday	Closed	Email	office@beckleypres.org
Tuesday-Thursday	9 a.m. - noon	Fax	(304) 252-5574
Friday	Closed		

Church Office	(304) 252-6289 ext 2	Treasurer's Hours	Monday-Friday	8 a.m.-4 p.m.
See above for Staff Extensions		Website		www.beckleypres.org

SESSION

Class of 2017-2018

Dan Calvert
Ross Hageman
Nancy Kissinger
Charles McNeel
Ann Worley

Class of 2018-2019

Nancy Cameron
Bill Hartling
Karen Reed
Clyde Smith
Mac Tieche

Class of 2019-2020

Al Combs
Betsy Gilmer
Drema Davis
Mary Calvert
David Sotak
Youth Representative
Rachel McNeel
(one year term)

The Reverend Jim Burton, Moderator
Patricia A. Lester, Clerk of Session

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY BECKLEY PRESBYTERIAN

Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan in Bangladesh