

Gathering Music

Welcome

Psalm 121

O.T. 571

Lighting of Advent Candles

You'll Never Walk Alone

by Richard Rogers

***Hymn**

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH #221

John 14: 25-27

N.T. 109

Prayer for Illumination

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us. **Thanks be to God.**

**Creator God,
For so long we have been bending under the weight
of our own grief, exhaustion, and stress.
However, today,
like a flower bending toward the sun,
we are leaning toward you in hope.
Speak a word of encouragement to us now.
Help us to see that we are not alone.
And warm our weary bones from the inside out.
We are listening.
We are bending.
We are seeking after you.
With open hearts we pray,
amen.**

Moon Prayers Response

Candle Lighting

Prayer of Gratitude

***Closing Hymn**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH #211

***Benediction**

Postlude

Thank you to Millicent Scarlett, soprano, and Dana Scott, piano,
for providing our music.

Scripture and Song

Lamentations 3: 17-24

O.T. 766

Give Me Jesus

by Moses Hogan

Isaiah 40: 1-11

O.T. 667

I Believe

by Mark Miller



Weariness Feels Like

Weariness feels like an ache in your bones,
or a slow leak from the heart—
a leak that causes hope to pool at your feet.
Weariness feels like the wind knocked out of you—
all of a sudden, it's impossible to breathe.
Weariness feels like an oversized coat.
It catches on door handles and knocks over water glasses.
You turn into a clumsy mess.
Weariness can hit you all at once—
when the phone rings,
when the bill arrives,
when the New York Times sends you an alert.
But weariness can also hem and haw its way into your life,
bit by bit, chipping away at resolve.
And one short poem cannot change this truth—
the weary state of our grief-stricken hearts.
But one short poem can remind you
the one thing we so often forget:
that I can wear your jacket for a while.
And we can try to stop the leak in your heart.
And if that doesn't work,
then we'll stand under the night sky
to look at the stars
and remember that we do not
walk this valley alone.

—Rev. Sarah A. Speed



UNIVERSITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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