



*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.”*



*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

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## 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		<a href="http://www.beckleypres.org">www.beckleypres.org</a>

## 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