



**Longest Night Worship Service
December 17, 2025**

Leading worship this evening:
Rev. Frank Yates, Interim pastor
Ginny O'Neill, Liturgist
Nancy Leffler, Director of Music

Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church
1004 24th Street SE, Rio Rancho
info@rrpchurch.org | (505) 892.6664

*Please stand as you are comfortable
Music: One License #A-736655

Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church

Welcome

Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Lighting the Advent Candles:

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come now, O Prince of Peace: make us one body.

People: Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Leader: Come now, O God of love; make us one body.

People: Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Leader: Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.

People: Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Leader: Come, hope of unity; make us one body.

People: Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

***Hymn #115:** *Away in a Manger*

Opening Prayer

A Reading from the Old Testament: Isaiah 40 Ginny O'Neill

A Reading from the Gospel: Luke 2: 21-38 Rev. Frank Yates

Meditation: The Meeting of Old and New

A Litany of Losses

A Time for Meditation

Meditation Music: *Lonely Midnight*

***Hymn #144:** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #123:** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Benediction

Postlude *I Wonder As I Wander*

Thank you for joining us!
We hope you have a blessed evening!

Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D)
F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7)
C7

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G)
Bb

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7)
C7

(D)
F

(Em)
Gm

(A7)
C7

(D)
F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.