

Falmouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



An Open and Affirming Congregation
267 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105
207.781.3413



Serving Christ and Community since
1754 Third Parish Church;
1833 The Brick Church

The Reverend Amelia Edson

5:30 PM

LONGEST NIGHT

DECEMBER 16th, 2021



THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PRELUDE

John Wilcox

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world

All: The light shines in the deepest night, and the night cannot overcome it.

One: *Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,*

All: and the day is almost over.

One: Let your light disperse the shadows

All: and shine within us.

One: Let us pray:

Abide with us, O Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is almost over; abide with us, for the days are hastening on and we hasten with them; abide with us and with all your faithful people, until the daystar rises and the morning light appears, and we shall abide with you forever. **Amen.**

God of all Seasons, in this time of tree lights and laughter-filled parties, our faces feel pressed to a window, looking in on a scene we cannot join. Be with us as we mourn our losses, and when the time is right, show us thy healing light amidst our darkness. **Amen.**

O God of peace, we turn aside from an unquiet world, seeking rest for our spirits and light for our thoughts.

We bring our wounds to be healed, our hearts to be made whole, our hopes to be renewed, and our better selves to be encouraged. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

FIRST HYMN

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Cranham

SECOND READING

“Wild Geese”

by Mary Oliver

(See insert)

LAMENT
(See insert)

Psalm 19

by Ann Weems

MESSAGE OF HOPE

Rev. Amelia Edson

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

All are invited to come forward to light candles.

Together we kindle the light of hope & mercy—a light the darkness cannot overcome.

THIRD READING

Gospel of John 1:1-14

SECOND HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, high,
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
Who or - der all things might - i - ly;
That mourns in the lone - ly ex - ile here
To us in the path of knowl - edge show,
Un - til the Son of God ap - pears,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God be among you, and remain with you always.

DISMISSAL

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

If you are new to worship, welcome and please fill out a blue visitor card.



You Are Invited To Attend

Falmouth Congregational Church UCC

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24

5:00 PM

Family Service with Christmas Pageant

8:00 PM

Lessons and Carols Worship Service



All are welcome!

FMI: 781-3414

www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org