

*Candlelighting Songs: "Psalm 126"

- 1. Our mouths, they were filled, filled with laughter;
Our tongues, they were loosed, loosed with joy.
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!**

**Chorus: Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing
the seeds of Your Kingdom for the day You will reap them.
Your sheaves we will carry; Lord, please do not tarry.
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy!**

- 2. The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy. Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!**

Words and Music: Isaac Wardell, © 2011 Isaac Wardell

"Abide with Me" LUYH 466

"Silent Night/Peace, Peace" LUYH 85:1,2,1

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

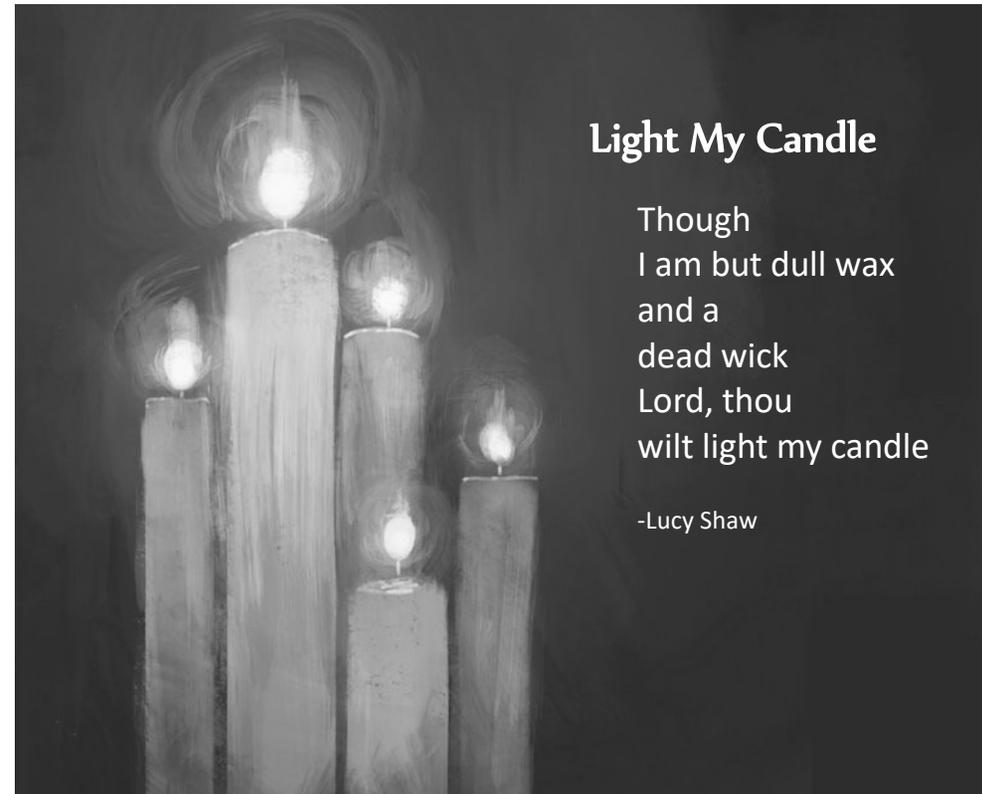
**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.**

*Benediction

Blue Christmas

December 22, 2019



Light My Candle

Though
I am but dull wax
and a
dead wick
Lord, thou
wilt light my candle

-Lucy Shaw

Psalm 42:11

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Joel Kok ♦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries ♦ Violin: Kinza Brue
Cello: Rylan Brue ♦ Worship Leader: Rebecca DeVries
Sound: Nick Breems ♦ Projection: John Kok ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Gathering

Prelude: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Welcome

Call to Worship

People of God, our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.
 Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Opening Prayer

*Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LUYH 61:1,4,5,6

Prayer of Lament: Psalm 42 p.881

Song: "Don't Be Afraid" LUYH 429

First Candle

We light this first candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost.

Moment of Silence

Prayer

Triune God, we give you thanks for the memories of this season
 that bind these people to us.
 May your eternal love surround them.

Song: "Within Our Darkest Night" LUYH 417

Second Candle

We light this second candle to redeem the pain and loss – the loss of relationships,
 the loss of health, the loss of jobs, and the loss of financial security.

Prayer

God of all comfort, as we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you,
 asking that into our welcome hearts and open hands,
 you place the gift of peace.
 Refresh, restore, renew us, oh God, and lead us into Your future.

Song: "Within Our Darkest Night"

LUYH 417

Third Candle

We light this third candle to remember ourselves and the poignancy of memories, the grief,
 the sadness, the hurts, and the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

Prayer

God of mercy, we ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow,
 and peace for the past.
 May we not forget that dawn defeats darkness.

Song: "Within Our Darkest Night"

LUYH 417

Fourth Candle

This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope
 that God offers to us in the Christmas story.

Prayer

Illuminating God, your light has dawned on us,
 your people who walk in darkness and in the shadow of death.
 For unto us a child is born.
 Renew our hope and let us remember the one who shows the way
 and goes with us into our tomorrows.

Song: "Within Our Darkest Night"

LUYH 417

Prayer concluding with the Lord's Prayer

A Light for our Path

A Reading from Isaiah

Song: "Imagine"

LUYH 72

Candlelighting

During the singing of these songs, please form two lines and come down the center aisle
 to the front of the sanctuary to light your candle from one of the 4 candles. If you would
 like, you may pause a moment and light an additional candle in remembrance of some-
 one. There are smaller candles near each of the four "Remembrance" candles. Then
 please proceed to form a circle around the sanctuary; the first people will be in the back
 of the sanctuary. If you wish to stay seated at first, you may. Come forward when you are
 ready.