

The Longest Night: An Upstream Event

Deliver Us

Words of welcome

Habbakuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.

I Will Sing

Prayer stations (during the following four songs):

1. Writing names / placing photos /stories on altar or cross
2. Candle lighting screen
3. Healing/individual prayer (kneeler/screen)
4. Art - collage?
5. Other ideas?

By the River of Your Grace

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Breathe

Selected verses from Romans 8

I am sure that what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us. In fact, all creation is eagerly waiting for God to show who God's children are. But now we groan silently, while we wait for God to show that we are God's children. This means that our bodies will also be set free. And this hope is what saves us. In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. All of our thoughts are known to God. God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves God. What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love--not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Your Love Is Deep

Psalm 139:1-12

You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Hidden Places

Psalm 42:1-6

Restless

Prayer

Word of God Speak

Isaiah 40:1-8, 28-31

"Comfort, oh comfort my people,"
says your God.

"Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem,
but also make it very clear

That she has served her sentence,
that her sin is taken care of—forgiven!

She's been punished enough and more than enough,
and now it's over and done with."

Thunder in the desert!

"Prepare for God's arrival!

Make the road straight and smooth,
a highway fit for our God.

Fill in the valleys,
level off the hills,

Smooth out the ruts,
clear out the rocks.

Then God's bright glory will shine
and everyone will see it.

Yes. Just as God has said."

A voice says, "Shout!"

I said, "What shall I shout?"

"These people are nothing but grass,
their love fragile as wildflowers.

The grass withers, the wildflowers fade,
if God so much as puffs on them.

Aren't these people just so much grass?

True, the grass withers and the wildflowers fade,
but our God's Word stands firm and forever."

Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening?

God doesn't come and go. God lasts.

He's Creator of all you can see or imagine.

He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath.

And he knows everything, inside and out.

He energizes those who get tired,
gives fresh strength to dropouts.

For even young people tire and drop out,
young folk in their prime stumble and fall.

But those who wait upon God get fresh strength.

They spread their wings and soar like eagles,

They run and don't get tired,

they walk and don't lag behind.

Message - Laurie

Come Just As You Are

Communion

I Will Change Your Name

Sending Forth