HOMILY

Rev. Sharon O'Connor

"Child of the Poor/What Child is This" Rebecca Gebhardt & Kara Shrum

You are invited to come down and light a candle for your loved one.

"Somewhere in Your Silent Night" Chris Brunt

CLOSING PRAYER

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you for your constant love and for the blessings of this day. We know that even when we cannot see or feel you, you are still there. Help us to remember you and to listen for your voice in the words of family, friends, and strangers. Kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you reveal yourself in the world and in our lives. Let the light of your Holy Spirit shine like these candles in the darkness, lighting the way for all who feel despairing, lost, or forgotten. Let your Holy Spirit dwell so deeply in our hearts, that when we leave this place it will shine brightly for us and for those we meet along the way. Amen.

"What Child Is This"

Postlude

If you would like to learn more about our Care Ministry visit our website at: **crumc.org/care**

> Rev. Sharon O'Connor Sr. Congregational Care Minister

Rev. Jack Gibson Congregational Care Minister

Rev. Dr. Jack Wallace Congregational Care Minister

Tiffanny Hosey: Director of Care & Prayer Ministry





"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

"Still, Still, Still"

Welcome

Rev. Sharon O'Connor

Call to Worship

John 1:1-5

Prelude

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

"Mary Did You Know?" MacKenzie Kern

Matthew 11:28-30

Rev. Dr. Jack Wallace

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 1

LIGHTING OF 4 ADVENT CANDLES

1ST CANDLE For Those We Have Loved and Lost

PRAYER

Lord, each of us takes our loved one by the hand and leads them to you, the God of love. We present them to you now. Accept our love and thanksgiving as we entrust them to your loving care. We want our loved ones to be free at home with you. We ask that you save a place for us beside them. We ask that you fill us with motivation and energy in the days ahead, when we feel like giving up. Remind us often that our true home is with you. Help us to find joy in the people, events and the beauty of nature which surrounds us. Thank you for the gift that each of these people have been in our lives. Help us to believe that we will celebrate the treasure of love with them again, when we are all in your presence forever. May this truth sustain us in the days to come. Take our sad and aching hearts and comfort us. God of all, draw near! Amen.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 5

2ND CANDLE For the Redemption of Pain of Loss Tiffanny Hosey

PRAYER

God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you. We come before you in need of peace. We are grateful for the mystery of life and ever keenly aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you, but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. Amen.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 6

3RD CANDLE

For Those Experiencing Loss of Direction

PRAYER

God of our depths, we cry out to you to be our guide. Help us to have a strong sense of inner direction. Grant that we may have the reassurance of knowing that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you. Amen.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verse 2

4TH CANDLE

For Hope that the Christmas Story Offers to Us

PRAYER

O God whose spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift up our hearts, we pray, to a joyous confidence in your care. Guide us when we cannot see the way. Teach us to know that a shadow is only a shadow, because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the object of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it. Help us to trust you and enable us to grow in the power of love, so that our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others. We ask it, in the name of Jesus Christ whose life is our light. Amen.