

Longest Night Service

Experiencing Grief During Christmas

12.22.2024 – Pastor Ethan Maple

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**Does God see my pain
during Christmas?**

Does He care?

And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'"

- Matthew 1:21-23

Notice The Names

Immanuel | God With Us

(who He is)

Jesus | God Saves Us

(what He does)

**“Immanuel” reminds us that
God looked down upon His people,
in the midst of their dismay
and despair, and sent Himself
to dwell among them.**

YES, God sees your pain.

**“Jesus” reminds us that,
in the midst of disdain and
discord, God placed Himself on
the sacrificial altar so that we
may experience salvation.**

YES, God cares about you.

***For God loved the world
so much that he gave his one
and only Son, so that everyone
who believes in him will not perish
but have eternal life.***

- John 3:16

**When we recognize
who God is and what
God does, we are able to
feel His presence and
hear His voice...**

**A voice and presence that helps us
and permits us to experience...**

HOPE | PEACE | JOY | LOVE

**...not beyond our season of pain,
but in the middle of it.**

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

- John 8:12

Our grief and loss have a tendency to make life stand still, a numbing that attacks our very spirit...

Christmas reminds us that God is with you in your pain and sent His Son as a light to save you.

