

# Blue Christmas Online Worship Service

Shavertown United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

We are thankful that you have come to God in this time of grief, uncertainty, and loss. This service recognizes our feelings before the One who loves us and opens us up to Christ's healing presence. Shavertown UMC is praying for you and if you desire to further walk this journey toward wholeness with a faith community, we offer ourselves to come alongside you.

Music for Gathering into God's Presence  
Words of Greeting

Ed Pall, Guitarist  
Pastor Robin Baer

Opening Prayer

Theresa Havel, Grief Share Leader

Come, Lord Jesus.

When we are weak, afraid, lonely, or sad, we cannot sing of Christmas joy.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Gather us under your wings as a mother hen shelters her chicks.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Weep with us as you wept with Mary and Martha.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

You know the cold and hunger of a stable; now share our loneliness.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

You know the power of our enemy, death; now comfort and sustain us.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Make your home with us and share our every load.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

You are the Sun of righteousness, risen with healing in your wings.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Give us life and light through this long night and bring us to your joy in the morning.

In your name we pray.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1)

# 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Reading Scripture Together

Psalm 121

Theresa

I look up to the mountains;  
does my strength come from mountains?  
No, my strength comes from God,  
who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.  
He won't let you stumble,  
your Guardian God won't fall asleep.  
Not on your life! Israel's  
Guardian will never doze or sleep.  
God's your Guardian,  
right at your side to protect you—  
Shielding you from sunstroke,  
sheltering you from moonstroke.  
God guards you from every evil,  
he guards your very life.  
He guards you when you leave and when you return,  
he guards you now, he guards you always.

Prayer

Pastor Robin

Compassionate God, we take comfort in knowing that you can handle anything we bring to you in prayer. We will not shock you or anger you when we cry out from the depths of our sorrow. In fact, you welcome all our words, both spoken and unspoken. You are also quick to pardon our offenses. So, forgive us where forgiveness is needed; heal, where healing is necessary; and bring peace to our troubled souls. Merciful Jesus, we lay our burdens silently at your feet and seek your peace which surpasses all understanding. Amen.

*(Silent Prayers)*

Assurance of Forgiveness and Grace

Words of encouragement

"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

Hymn

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (v. 1)

# 196

Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every lonely heart

Consolation Candle Service

Theresa and Pastor Robin

We light a candle for Love.  
We light a candle for Joy.  
We light a candle for Memories.  
We light a candle for Tears.  
We light a candle for Hope.  
We light a candle for Peace.  
We light a candle for Strength.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Memory Wreath

*Wreaths symbolize the never-ending love of God and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. We tie a blue ribbon to the wreath to celebrate the fulfillment of the promise for your loved ones.*

\*Closing Hymn

*Silent Night* (v. 1)

# 239

Silent night, Holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant, tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

\*Blessing

## Blue Christmas Worship Service

Experiencing Healing and Hope  
in the midst of darkness



“What is lovely never dies, but passes into other loveliness.”  
-Thomas Bailey Aldrich