

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A service of reflection for those dealing with darkness and loss in their lives.
(* indicates please stand if you are able)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of festivities, shouts, and bright lights, we feel the darkness of our souls.

Come, God of power and Light, help us.

In the midst of gatherings, we feel alone and alienated.

Come, God of peace and Hope, hear our cries.

In the midst of celebration, our hearts cry out.

Lord, hear us and come to us. Bring us peace. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "Love Came Down at Christmas" #242

OPENING PRAYER:

God of love and understanding, we gather here this evening to confront our pain in the midst of the world's celebration. Help us to know that you are present with us in all of our moods and feelings and seasons. Grant us a taste of the hope, peace, joy and love that you promise to all of your people through the gift of your son Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

PSALM 22 (*Responsive Reading*)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and you delivered them.

It was you who brought me from the womb, you who kept me safe on my mother's breast. Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted. God does not hide from me.

When I cry to God, God hears me. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Luke 14: 15-24

(Silent Reflection)

Matthew 11: 28-29

(Silent Reflection)

Revelation 21: 1-7

(Silent Reflection)

PSALM 23 (*All read together.*)

The LORD is my shepherd;

**I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul;

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;**

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
thou annointest my head with oil;**

my cup runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

PRAYER SONG

"Spirit Song"

#347

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(During the prayer the Leader will conclude each section with the words "Lord, in your mercy."
The congregation may respond with the words: Hear our prayer.)*

CANDLELIGHTING

Leader: We light four candles tonight in remembrance of our loved ones. We light these candles for our own needs. We light one for our grief, one for our courage, one for our memories and one for our love.

(There will be a time of silent reflection between each candle lighting. After the four main candles are lit, you are invited to come forward to light a votive candle if you wish. The Christ Candle will be the last candle lit.)

PRAYER

*HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

#239

BLESSING:

Go in peace, knowing that the God, whose love created this world, sent Jesus into the same world to be our friend, companion, and Savior. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SENDING FORTH MUSIC



Blue Christmas

December 22, 2022

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Custodian – Brad Lothridge

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Communications Coordinator – Amy Wall

Hospitality Opportunity Prepare Engage