

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF HOPE, HEALING & COMFORT

Prelude Still, Still, Still Hayes/Wagner

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Litany of Acknowledging Immanuel: God with Us

Leader: We come with heavy hearts, sorrow, loneliness and sadness.

All: We come seeking a place to set them down, a place where our feelings are honored.

Leader: We may be confused and feeling our losses without remembering that you are always there to support us.

All: God open us to the understanding that you are the Source of love and that we need not feel alone in our grief.

Leader: We remember friends, family and pets we have loved and lost. We hold them before God, giving thanks for the lives we shared.

All: God, we entrust them to your loving care.

Leader: We all experience reminders of past hurts, fear, isolation, conflicts and difficulties.

All: God is at work in us and with us throughout our seasons of life.

Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us; the God of healing touches us when we are broken; the God of comfort accompanies us.

All: We turn to God who is loving and present. For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us. We are not alone. Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch.

Hymn In the Bleak Midwinter v.. 1-2 UMH #221

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving (in Unison)

Generous and gracious Lord, we thank for your compassion and presence. Often overwhelmed by our burdens, we forget that you never leave us and your steadfast love never fails. In coming never leave us and your steadfast love never fails. In coming together, we find comfort and assurance that we are never alone. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Faith Proverbs 3:5-6 Susan Coles

O Come, O Come Immanuel v.2 UMH #211

We light the first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation when all Creation waits for the Light.

We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.

(A moment of silent reflection)

Love Isaiah 41-10 Nancy Paschal

O Come, O Come Immanuel v.1 UMH #211

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

We remember through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future.

(A moment of silent Reflection)

Peace John 14:27 Sharon Wyatt

O Come, O Come Immanuel v.7 UMH #211

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and for some of us, years that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the fear and anger and the pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short and the time we have spent blaming ourselves and you for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone in darkness and in knowledge of our own mortality.

We remember that though we have journeyed far, and while lost, we may have turned away from the light, the Light itself has not failed. We remember that though winter be upon us and though the night be dark, with the turning of the Earth, the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.

(A moment of silent reflection)

Hope Jeremiah 29:11 Sandy Bobo

O Come, O Come Immanuel v.4 UMH #211

(*Indicates a standing posture of praise. Stand as you are able.)

(UMH indicates the United Methodist Hymnal)