

Blue Christmas
Service of Hope



Blue Christmas Service

December 12th, 2021

7 p.m.

*Please stand as you are able.

Prelude

Silent Prayer & Reflection Encouraged

Words of Welcome

Pastor Tim

Call to Worship (Based on Hymn #626 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

Pastor Tim

Leader: Let all mortal flesh keep silent, and with fear and trembling stand;

**People: Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descended, our full homage to demand!**

Leader: King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,

**People: Lord of lords in human form, in body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful his own self as heavenly food.**

Leader: Rank on rank, the hosts of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,

**People: As the Light of light descends from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away!**

***Hymn of Invitation to God**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMC No. 211, Vv. 1, 2, 3

LAMENT

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:25-30

Susan Paisley

Scripture Reading

Psalms 77:1-15

Susan Paisley

Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMC No. 211, Vv. 5, 6, 7

COMFORT

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-8, 14-16

Pam Howard

Lighting of the Advent Candles

One: 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.

Reader: This candle represents our grief. We own the pain of losing loved ones, of dreams that go unfulfilled, of hopes that evaporate in despair. Thank you

for the gift each of these people has been in our lives. We want to believe that we will celebrate the treasure of love with them again, when we are all in your presence forever.

Candle is lit.....a brief silence follows

Reader: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs with the security they bring, the loss of health in ourselves or in family members, the loss of joy and peace in our lives from the stresses which surround us, the loss and loneliness we experience when our loved ones do not share our faith. As we gather up the pain of the past we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

Candle is lit.....a brief silence follows

Reader: The third candle we light for those who experience a loss of direction in their lives. God of the Exodus, you led Moses and your people through the wilderness to a new land. Hear our prayer. We want so much to have a sense of direction, to know where we are and where we ought to be headed. But the darkness and the questions stay. You ask us to be full of faith, to believe deep within that you are our signpost, that you are our wisdom and our guide, and to trust in your presence. Your words to us are clear: "Do not fear, I go before you."

Candle is lit.....a brief silence follows

Reader: The fourth candle we light as a sign of hope, the hope that the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering. 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 it and enable us to grow in the power of love.

Candle is lit.....a brief silence follows

One: You are invited to come forward to light one of the votive candles which represents your burdens, griefs, sorrows, all those things which make Christmas a "blue" time for you. You may speak the name or the event if you wish to do so as you light the candle. Then you may return to your seat.

One: In the center of this table we light the Christ candle, remembering that Jesus Christ is always in the center of our lives. He hears our cries, he knows our hearts and, in the midst of all our thoughts and emotions, he offers us hope and healing.

Leader: Let us pray....

Hymn "Love Came Down At Christmas" UMC No. 242

HOPE

Prayer of Hope Pastor Jim

Lord's Prayer Pastor Jim

Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMC No. 196

Scripture Reading *John 5:19-29* Pastor Tim

Meditation "Coming Alive with Christ as Our Foundation" Pastor Tim

A Time of Reflection

*You are invited to come forward as we light the votive candles,
share ornaments and are anointed with oil.*

Closing Hymn "There's A Song In The Air" UMC No. 249

Benediction Pastor Tim

Passing of Peace

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*Parts of the service are adapted from the Blue Christmas Worship service  
written by Rev. Nancy C. Townely.*

*We thank tonight's service participants: Pastor Tim Anderman, Pastor Jim Mundell, Susan  
Paisley, Pam Howard, Betsy Smith, and Joan Saller*



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

6:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service  
with music by our Memory Bells

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve at Jenner's Pond

8:00 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service  
with music by our PraiseWorks Band

10:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service  
with Holy Communion and music by our Chancel Choir