

A Blue Christmas Service – online
An Order of Worship for the Evening

Resource from the Rev. Kimberlee Law

Greeting and Announcements

Ringling of the bells...

We begin in the shadows.

Words of Invitation

Officiant: Light and peace. in Jesus Christ our Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:10-11

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Let us pray, God of Gentleness...

Hymn: ***O Come O Come, Emmanuel*** – verse 1

Lighting the First Candle

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-3

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

We light the first candle tonight to remember our loved ones who have died. We remember their face, their smile, their voice... and are grateful for our memories of life with them. We also remember all those who have died from the Coronavirus, in our country as well as those across the world.

Please take this moment to light the first candle

You are invited to say the names of loved ones who have died, spoken aloud or silently in your hearts...

Let us pray, God of comfort...

Hymn ***O Come O Come, Emmanuel***

The Lighting of the Second Candle

Psalm 13

¹ How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
² How long must I bear pain^[a] in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, ⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. ⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

The second candle represents all we have lost in our lives, and giving those losses to God ... loss of life as we knew it before this pandemic, the loss of being together in our churches, with our families, loss of physical touch, loss of health, and jobs and security.

Please take this moment to light the second candle.

You are invited to now name the losses you've experienced this past year, saying them aloud or silently in your hearts...

Let us pray, God of peace...

Hymn: ***O Come O Come, Emmanuel*** –

Homily

Chant: ***We are the light of the world...***

The Lighting of the Third Candle

Romans 8:31-34

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

The third candle represents those difficult emotions... anger, fear, loneliness, jealousy, self-criticism, feelings of rejection and not being enough; We give our pain to God.

Please take a moment to light the third candle.

You are invited to now name those difficult emotions, spoken aloud or said silently in your hearts, giving them to God.

Let us pray, God of mercy...

Hymn: ***O Come O Come, Emmanuel***

The Lighting of the Fourth Candle

John 10:27-28

Jesus said, My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will take them out of my hand.

The fourth candle we light tonight is a sign of hope, and all that the incarnation means of Christ being born in us again this year. We journey together knowing that Christ is with us, shares our life with us, and that love is the answer. We have faith that one day there will be no more pain, no more suffering. Our life with the Triune God is never ending.

Please take this moment to light the fourth candle.

You are invited to now name the hopes and dreams you have, saying them aloud or silently in your hearts.

Let us pray...

And as we pray together the Lord's Prayer together, we remember God our Mother and

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.

Blessing

Closing chant: ***Now we go in peace...***