

Park Ridge Community Church  
***Blue Christmas: A Service for the Weary***

December 21, 2025

7:30 pm

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**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**A READING**

"Weariness Feels Like"

Rev. Sarah Speed

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

...Tonight, we light this candle for the hopeless.

**May God's hope find them now.**

...for people navigating rocky, new beginnings.

**May God's peace find them now.**

...who need a good laugh, even in seasons of grief.

**May God's joy find them now.**

...for all who long for love and find themselves lonely.

**May God's love find them now.**

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*In The Bleak Midwinter, v. 1 & 3*

36

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 121

John 14:25-27

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

*The Stars Shone Bright*

Williams

**WRITTEN PRAYERS THIS NIGHT**

*You are invited to write the name of a person or situation for which you are praying and holding into God's light this night. These will be collected and placed in a basket at the front.*

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

*Silent Night v. 1 & 3*

60

*You are invited to come forward, light a candle representing the warmth of love known and hope shining in the dark. After you light your candle, please take a prayer moon from the basket.*

***Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.***

***Round yon virgin, mother and child.***

***Holy infant so tender and mild.***

***Sleep in Heavenly peace! Sleep in Heavenly peace.***

***Silent night, Holy night, Son of God loves pure light.***

***Radiant beams from Thy holy face,***

***with the dawn of redeeming grace,***

***Jesus Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.***

**PRAYER OF RESPONSE**

**God of our joy and God of our weariness,**

**we have brought our worn-down hearts to you this night—**

**hearts full of grief,**

**hearts carrying fear,**

**hearts, tender to the touch.**

We have brought our weariness to you this night because we know that you are present with us in the valleys. We know that you were born into a quiet night like this one, so surely our tears from the night are not unfamiliar to you. Therefore, as we prepare to leave the safe protection of this space, as we prepare to return to the fullness of our lives, we ask that you would continue to walk with us. Stay by our side through the valley. Stay by our side as we climb our way out. Just stay close. For we cannot move from weariness to joy without you. With honesty and gratitude, we give you these prayers of our hearts— those named and left unnamed. We give them all to you. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*I Believe*

Miller

SILENT PRAYER

\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

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BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

### LEADING US IN WORSHIP

Pastor Carol Hill, Senior Minister

Pastor Mollie Foster, Associate Minister

Sarah McCarty, Director of Pastoral Services

Sasha Gerritson, Director of Music Ministries

Jane Kenas-Heller, Pianist

Vocalists: Lizzie Broeker, Mel Budreck, Theresa Egan,

Rachel Lapp, Meg Thomas-Cary

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CREDITS: Prayers and readings written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

