


Blue Christmas Order of Worship 12/16/2025



GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

* Indicates to please stand as you are able.

PASTORAL GREETING

*OPENING HYMN **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** No. 211(v 1, 2)

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone. For the yoke that was weighing upon them, and the burden upon their shoulders, you have broken in pieces, O God, our Redeemer. Let us pray:

People: God of mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent season for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of your Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1, 25-31

PSALM 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come?

People: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

People: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

People: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Leader: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

People: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:28-30

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 211 (v. 3)

A LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE

LIGHTING OF FOUR ADVENT CANDLES

First Candle: To remember those persons whom we have loved and lost.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 211 (v. 4)

Second Candle: To redeem the pain of loss.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 211 (v. 5)

Third Candle: For those who experience a loss of direction.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 211 (v. 6)

Fourth Candle: A sign of hope.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 211 (v. 7)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask our God for all the good things we need: For ourselves as we participate in this Christmas as special people coping with our many different losses. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy, answer.

Leader: For our families and friends, that they may continue to help and support us. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy, answer.

Leader: For any person we have loved who has died, for all the losses we know in our lives, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy, answer.

Leader: For our family and friends, that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy, answer.

Leader: For peace throughout the world as proclaimed by the Christmas Angels on that faraway hillside. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy, answer

Leader: For greater understanding of the lessons of love and acceptance as taught by Jesus your Christ. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy, answer.

Leader: God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray

People: 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, forever. Amen

LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES

INVITATION TO CANDLE LIGHTING

*CANDLE LIGHTING: After you light a candle, if you wish, you may kneel at the altar rail for the laying on of hands and a blessing, or you may return to your seat. You may also take a "Square of Hope" off of the Christmas tree as an act of remembrance.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

No. 211 (v. 7)

*BENEDICTION

Leader: May the hope of the Christ Child sustain us through this darkness.

People: That together we may shine again. Amen.



We invite you to join us in the lobby for a time of fellowship, or you may remain in the sanctuary to spend time in prayer and reflection.

Thank you to Sharon Moran for creating our "Squares of Hope"
Also, thank you to Karen Fallows for serving as our accompanist.

