

Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 20, 2009, 4:00pm

PRELUDE *Song of Remembrance* -Martin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN** 9 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

OPENING PRAYER (all together)

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND HOPE

Leader: O God of all seasons and senses,

People: grant us the sense of your timing

Leader: to submit gracefully and rejoice quietly

People: in the turn of the seasons.

Leader: In this season of short days and long nights,

People: of grey and white and cold,

Leader: teach us the lessons of endings,

People: children growing, friends leaving,

Leader: loved ones dying, grieving over,

People: grudges over, blaming over, excuses over.

Leader: O God grant us a sense of your timing.

(Time for silent prayer)

Leader: In this season of short days and long nights,

People: of grey and white and cold,

Leader: teach us the lessons of beginnings,

People: that such waiting and endings may be the starting place,

Leader: a planting of seeds which bring to birth

People: what is ready to be born,

Leader: something right and just and different,

People: a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love, in the fullness of your time.

All: O God, grant us the sense of your timing

(silent prayers)

APOSTOLIC GREETING FOR ADVENT

Leader: Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace mercy and peace be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Christ have mercy

People: Lord have mercy

Leader: Healer of our every ill and loss

People: Grant us peace

Leader: Christ have mercy

People: Lord have mercy

A LITURGY OF REMEMBERING

(using the Advent wreath candles)

Leader: This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season.

(Pause while the first candle is being lit).

All: May God's eternal love surround them.

Leader: This second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health.

(Pause while the second is lit).

We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

All: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.

Leader: This third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and month; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us.

(Pause while the third candle is lit).

We give thanks for all the support we have known.

All: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.

Leader: This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us.

(Pause while the fourth candle is lit).

We remember that God who shares our life promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember the one who shows the way, who brings the truth and who bears the light.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

MEDITATION

HYMN 48 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask God for all things we need; for ourselves as we participate in whatever way we can this Christmas 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 the person we have loved that has died. For all the losses that we know, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise. God hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy answer.

Leader: For all our family and friends that they may know love and peace and happiness in you. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy answer.

Leader: For the peace proclaimed by the Christmas angels, to come throughout the whole world. 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 holiday season, to know your healing and peace. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

People: AMEN

ANNOINTING FOR HEALING – CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader continues, concluding with...

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial chorus and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader continues, concluding with...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all together)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION IN CHRIST

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (all pray together)

God our help: we thank you for this supper shared in the Spirit with your Son, Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us eternal life. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in him, that we might serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

HYMN 60 *Silent Night*

SENDING:

Leader: Go in peace to serve and celebrate, to grieve and mourn, to find healing and hope in God's peace.

All: Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

(The congregation treats the postlude as its closing time of worship and leaves after it is completed.)

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Pastors: Rev. Bronwen Boswell & Rev. John Klatt
Organist: Sue Maciejewski