

“Blue Christmas” Worship
A Service of Remembrance and Healing
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Sunday • December 8, 2019 • 5:00 PM

PRELUDE Clara Riggleman

WORDS OF WELCOME Hugh Hamilton

CALL TO WORSHIP Hugh Hamilton

How indeed do we say love? For our hearts are bound by the memories we know.
God first loved us, and drew us to himself that we might know love and come alive.

And so we come again to find the heart of God.

We gather to praise God for the gift of life

and do not know what to say, so we sing.

We gather remembering the loss of our loved ones,

and do not know what to say, so we sing.

We gather in joy for the gift of love,

and do not know what to say, so we sing.

God of the loving heart is always ready to mend our hearts, to fill our hearts, and open them again to the wonders of life--and so we sing. Let us worship God.

*HYMN 88 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Verses 1,6,7

*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON) Brian Yount

God of mercy, we pray for ourselves and our families who live with the painful memories of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-8, 25-31 Brian Yount

*HYMN 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” Verses 1 & 4

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Hugh Hamilton

Leader: This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, the memories that bind them to us in this season.

ALL: Surround them, and us, O God, with your eternal love. (Time for silence.)

Leader: We light this second candle to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. 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. (Time for silence.)

Leader: We light this third candle for ourselves this Christmas time. We pause to remember these past weeks and months and years; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the

poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support and love we have known.

ALL: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness. (Time for silence.)

Leader: We light this fourth candle to reclaim our faith and the gift of hope, which the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God shares our life and 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. (Time for silence.)

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 John 1:1-5, 10-14 Hugh Hamilton

MEDITATION Hugh Hamilton

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Clara Riggleman
(From Ted Yoder, *Guerrillas of Grace*)

O God of all seasons and senses, grant us the sense of your timing to submit gracefully and rejoice quietly in the turn of the seasons.

In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold,

teach us the lessons of endings;

children growing, friends leaving,

loved ones dying, grieving over,

grudges over, blaming over, excuses over.

O God, grant us a sense of your timing. (Time for silent prayer)

In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold,

teach us the lessons of beginnings;

that such waitings and endings may be the starting place,

a planting of seeds which bring to birth

what is ready to be born--

something right and just and different,

a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love--

in the fullness of your time.

O God, grant us the sense of your timing. (Silent Prayers)

...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.

LIGHTING OF OUR CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE Hugh Hamilton

HYMN (see back cover) “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Silent Night

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! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born.

BENEDICTION

Brian Yount

POSTLUDE

Clara Riggleman

The sanctuary will remain open after the service for a time of private meditation,
if you so desire.

Please depart the sanctuary quietly, with respect for those who wish to pray.

Hugs are welcomed as you exit the doors. God bless you!



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