

# *Blue Christmas*



Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Pensacola, Florida  
In Conjunction With Covenant Hospice

"Blue Christmas" Worship  
December 5, 2021 5pm

**“Blue Christmas” Worship  
A Service of Remembrance and Healing  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Sunday • December 5, 2021 • 5:00 PM**

**WELCOME TO SACRED SPACE**

*While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Feelings of grief, depression, loneliness, and loss may be heightened and magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. This service is meant to provide a time and place of solace during the often hurried and overwhelming days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and a safe space to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.*

**PRELUDE**

**“In The Bleak Midwinter”  
Hyunjoo Kim**

**A. Betinis**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Hugh Hamilton, Host Pastor**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Hugh Hamilton**

The holiday season confronts many of our emotions. This year 2021 has challenged us, overwhelmed us.

**Sometimes we are confused, unsure of what is happening in our lives.**

**Sometimes we doubt and have difficulty trusting in God.**

**Sometimes we are curious and anxious about what the future holds.**

**O God, we stumble as those lost in the night.**

**Will not day come soon?**

**We live burdened by the sorrows, stresses, and concerns of this world.**

**Will you help us soon?**

**We hear the promise of your Word made flesh:**

**Help is coming soon!**

**We long for the light of your salvation.**

**Help is coming soon!**

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

**\*HYMN**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind,  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel**

**\*OPENING READING: "We Remember Them"**

**Willie Farrow  
Chaplain, Covenant Hospice**

**PRAYER (RESPONSIVE)**

**Willie Farrow**

In this season of short days and long nights, of bright lights and laughter, of holiday cheer, we also know the ache of missing loved ones, the ache of loneliness, of sadness, of moodiness. **O God of all seasons, 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.**

In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons of beginnings: that such waiting 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.

**Be with us and comfort us, give us strength and hope. In your Holy Name, Amen.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Hugh Hamilton, Willie Farrow,  
June Pouliot, Bereavement Coordinator, Covenant Hospice**

We light the first candle to remember those persons whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us this season which anticipates Christmas. May God's eternal love surround them.

*The first candle is lit. A brief silence is kept.*

We light the second candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

**Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11.28-30**

*The second candle is lit. A brief silence is kept.*

We light the third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us, years of difficult times. We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

**Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.**

*The third candle is lit. A brief silence is kept.*

We light the fourth candle to remember our faith and the gift of hope which God offers to us in the Christmas story. We remember that God, who shares our life, also promises us a place and time where pain and suffering will be no more.

**Let us remember the God who shows the way and who goes with us into our tomorrows.**

*The fourth candle is lit. A brief silence is kept.*

SPECIAL MUSIC	"All Is Well"	Clara Riggelman & Hyunjoo Kim
SCRIPTURE	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	Hugh Hamilton
MEDITATION	"Comfort: <i>Cum-Forte</i> "	Hugh Hamilton

#### LIGHTING OF OUR CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE

*You are invited to come forth and light a candle in remembrance of your loved one(s) or in thought of those who suffer or are in pain, or in support of those who struggle in any way. Then light your own candle and carry it back to your pew for silent reflection and prayer before we sing.*

#### HYMN     Silent Night! Holy 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	Hugh Hamilton
POSTLUDE	Hyunjoo Kim

You are welcome to remain for as long as you wish for prayer and quiet reflection.  
When you go, go in peace.

Worship Acknowledgments: This liturgy is a patchwork from a variety of sources. The printed introduction, opening dialogue, and prayers are drawn from Sundays and Seasons and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress, <https://pastorjoshevens.com/2019/12/09/liturgy-for-blue-christmas/>, used by permission. Other elements are drawn from past Blue Christmas/Longest Night liturgies, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible.