

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service  
Night of Winter Solstice  
12/21/2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE

LITANY OF REMEMBERING: (using Advent wreath)

. . . Together, we pray: **May God's eternal love surround them.**

. . . Together, we pray: **Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.**

. . . Together, we pray: **Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.**

. . . Together, we pray: **Let us remember the one who shows the way, who brings the truth and who bears the light.**

HYMN: For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits (89)

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND PARDON:

Dear Lord, we come to you this day to express our failures and confusion regarding our relationship with you:

**You know that we come to you with heavy hearts that we find hard to unburden. It is particularly in this time of year when the darkness of long solstice nights collides with the brilliance of Christmas lights, that we find it hard to express our losses.**

We may be confused, sad, lonely, and feeling our losses without remembering that you are always there to support us. We tend even toward anger at you, Lord, because we feel in some way it is your will that we are unhappy. Sometimes we feel cut off from you because we allow our many hurts to engulf us. We lack trust in you.

**Open us to the understanding that you are the source of all love and we need not feel so alone in our grief. Grant us wisdom to know that you—most of all—can be trusted, and that you are with us, especially when we are at our absolute worst.**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us open our lives to God's healing presence and receive our Lord's acceptance of us!

**We know, God of Love, that you are always with us, even in our very darkest of times. We know that you forgive our many transgressions and that, by leaning into your infinite patience and strength, we receive your mercy, your care, and your grace today. Amen.**

PASSAGE TO BE READ: Psalm 13

PRE-MEDITATION PRAYER

MEDITATION

## POST-MEDITATION PRAYER

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

God, our creator, your will for us and for all your people is wholeness and salvation: **have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance: **have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence: **have mercy on us.**

To the triune God, the source of all love and all life, let us offer our prayers. (*light one candle on the Tenebrae starting from the outside and working in*)

For all who are in need of healing . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are disabled by injury or illness . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are troubled by confusion or burdened by pain . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all whose increasing years bring weariness . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all about to undergo surgery . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cannot sleep . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who practice the healing arts . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (88) (vv. 1, 4, 6, 7)

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE