Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (verses 6-7) UMC #211

Scripture Reading (NRSV) Isaiah 40: 1-5, 28-31

Poem I Will Light Candles This Christmas Howard Thurman

Closing Prayer

Stations of Healing

(You will find 3 Stations of Healing: Rocks, Candles, and Prayer/Anointing)

Time for reflection with meditative music

Hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (verses 1-2) UMC #196

Benediction

Allowing for continued meditation and worship, please exit the sanctuary in silence. Greetings may be exchanged after the service outside.

Triune Mercy Center

Greenville, South Carolina

You are God's child, and you are welcome in this place.



Into this silent night
as we make our weary way
we know not where,
just when the night becomes its darkest
and we cannot see our path,
just then
is when the angels rush in,
their hands full of stars.

~ Ann Weems Into This Silent Night (Kneeling in Bethlehem)

Blue Christmas

A Service of Loss and Light December 19, 2021

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"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't overcome it."

~ John 1:5 (NRSV)

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Poem When the World was Dark Wild Goose Resource Group

Song "You Meet Me Here" (Vineyard Worship) Rachael Mason

Call to Worship based on John 1.1-14

In the midst of this season when we celebrate the hope of Christ's coming, we come together to share our grief.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

In the midst of this season when we celebrate the peace that Christ brings, we come together to name our fears.

What has come into being through Christ is life, and that life is the light of all people.

In the midst of this season when we celebrate the love that Christ brings, we come together to be upheld in our struggles.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. Let us worship Emmanuel, God with us.

Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (verses 1-2) UMC #211

Opening Prayer

Litany of Comfort for Blue Christmas

Debra Faulk

One: All around us are bright lights and merry messages...this season brings forth many feelings.

All: We find comfort in naming these feelings; we find some peace in being together.

Song

"I Will Carry You" (Ellie Holcomb)

Rachael Mason

Lighting of the Candles

The Candle of Grief (John 11:32-35)

One: We light this candle to remember those persons whom we love and have lost. We pause to remember each person, each face, and each voice. We give thanks for the memory that binds us together.

All: May God's eternal love surround them. (Silent Meditation)

The Candle of Courage (Matthew 11:28-30)

One: We light this candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, and 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.

All: Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future. (Silent Meditation)

The Candle of Memories (Revelation 21:1-6a)

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

All: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness. (Silent Meditation)

The Candle of Love (Romans 8:35, 38-39)

One: We light this 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, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember the One who shows the way and who goes with us into our tomorrows. (Silent Meditation)