



BLUE CHRISTMAS

An Order of Worship

by Nancy C. Townley
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Centering Music

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Remember the messengers of faith you have known, rejoice, and give thanks for their witness.

People: We, too, will prepare the way of Christ; we will help to level the hills and valleys of life.

Leader: Hold one another in your hearts this day; pray that love may rule all your relationships.

People: We will weep with those who weep. We will rejoice with those who rejoice.

Leader: God will be with you wherever you go. Amen.

Hymn “In the Bleak Midwinter” (UMH #221)

Opening Prayer

God of love and understanding, we gather here today to confront our pain in the midst of the world’s celebration. Help us know that you are present with us in all of our moods and feelings and seasons. Grant us a taste of the hope, peace, joy, and love that you promise to all of your people through the gift of your son Jesus. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Luke 14:15-24; Matthew 11:28-29; Revelation 21:1-7

Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (UMH #98)

Candlelighting

Candle of Grief

Candle of Courage

Candle of Memories

Candle of Love

Candle of Christ

Reader: Let us pray.

Comforting God, wrap us in your presence in this time of remembrance. With these candles, help us find your light, a light that will guide us day by day, step by step, as we try to live life fully and wholly. We cherish the special ways in which we have been touched by our loved ones. We thank you for the gift their lives have been to us. Now comfort us, encourage us, empower us. Amen.

Special Music “O Come, All You Who Are Weary*”
Written by Lisa Clow and Bob Kauflin

Blessing

Leader: Go in peace, knowing that the God whose love created this world, sent Jesus into the same world to be our friend, companion, and Savior. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out!

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

**Word changed from “unfaithful” to “who are weary.”*