

Blue Christmas



First United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025 | www.fumcgb.org
(920)437-9252 | 501 Howe Street, Green Bay, WI

Pastor Jeff Meyer - Lead Pastor

Blue Christmas Service

A service of Remembrance, Hope, Light, And Faith

First United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025
4:00 PM

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Pam Turner

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

arr. Lorie Line

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Paul Cardall

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Congregational Hymn #184

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*A Litany for Gathering (based on litany by Britney Lee)

L: Glory to you, O God, the hope of our salvation

C: Who has promised to never leave or forsake us.

L: You humbled yourself into our existence, shrinking into the world you created to be nurtured by the womb of an unwed teenager. Your entrance was met with rejection, your resting place, a trough for animals. You lived your first years as a refugee. You were tempted, threatened, humiliated, and despairing. You, Christ Jesus, wept. You depended on other humans for borrowed colts, boats, homes, and food. After your death, you were placed in someone else's tomb. You, Lord, have known the human experience, filled with heartache, poverty, dependency, loss and fear.

C: Emmanuel, God with us.

L: Let us Pray

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

Special Music

You Will Never Walk Alone

Rodgers & Hammerstein

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,^[a]
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*Congregational Hymn #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

McGEE

Litany of Remembrance (based on litany used in Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Honolulu)
(The first candle is lit)

L: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost.
We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies.
We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation
when all Creation waits for the light.

All: We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.

A period of silent reflection

The second candle is lit

L: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss:
loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy.
We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You,
asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace,
shalom.

**All: We remember that through You all things are possible.
Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future.**

A period of silent reflection

The third candle is lit

L: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time.
We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have
been heavy with our burdens.
We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the
hurt and fear, the anger and pain.
We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have
spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered.
We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness, and in
knowledge of our own mortality.

**All: We remember that though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have
turned away from the light, the light itself has not failed.
We remember that though winter be upon us and though the night be dark,
with the turning of Earth, the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.**

A period of silent reflection

The fourth candle is lit

L: We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us
in the stories of Hanukkah and of Christmas, which both also began in abandonment,
insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable. We remember that
the loving God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this human
life with us promises us comfort and peace.

**All: We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light,
and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.**

A period of silent reflection

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*Congregational Hymn #219
What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Offering of Light

Let us Pray.

All: Gentle God of love, help us reach out together for the light of faith, for renewal and recovery and a new day coming. Grant that hope may come to rest in our hearts, and let it go forth with us into the darkness, this night and in the nights to come, until we see the dawn.

L: Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O God; give us light in the night season and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night. Amen.

Lighting of Individual Candles

(Votive candle Tapers found on the table may be lighted as silent prayers are offered)

A period of silent reflection

Psalm 121

L: With the ancient words of the Psalmist, we affirm

All: I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
he that keepeth thee will not slumber;
behold, the God that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day nor the moon at night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil and shall sustain thy soul.
He shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth and
forevermore.

L: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we thank you for your constant love and for the blessings of this day.
We know that even when we cannot see or feel you, still you are there.
Help us to remember you and to listen for your voice in the words of family, friends,
and strangers. Kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may know you as you
reveal yourself in the world and in our lives. Let the light of your holy Spirit shine like
these candles in the darkness, lighting the way for all who feel despairing, lost, or
forgotten, and grant that it may come to dwell so deeply in our hearts that when we
leave this place it may shine on, for us and for those we meet along the way. Amen.

*Congregational Hymn #206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

*Concluding Prayers

L: Let us pray.

All: Another day will come, O God. I know not what it may bring forth, but make me
ready, God, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand
bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do
it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, help me do it gallantly. Make these words
more than words and give me the Spirit of thy Peace. Amen.

*Blessing and Dismissal

Postlude
O Holy Night

arr. Phillip Keveren

(* indicates stand as you are able)

Special Thanks to:

Lead Pastor: Jeff Meyer
Worship Leader: Kathy Nelson
Musician: Christina Kime Valdez
Guitarist: Lou Seiler, Soloist: Zoomie Hardtke

Audio Tech: John Ireland
Video Tech: Carol Shield

Behind the Scenes: Lydia Moser
Joe Mc Kee
Cindy VanGroll

Acknowledgements:

The United Methodist Hymnal © 1989 *The United Methodist Publishing House*
The Faith We Sing © 2000 Abingdon Press
CCLI License #1006992 ONE LICENSE #A-94978

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, Music: arr. C. Winfred Douglas

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Words & Music: Bob McGee

What Child Is This

Words: William C. Dix, Music: 16th cent. English melody

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Words & Music: Kathleen Thomerson

Instrumental Interludes:

The First Noel arr. Lorie Line
Silent Night arr. Lorie Line

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

4:00 PM

7:00 PM

Prelude Music begins 20 minutes before each service

Nursery Care will be available for the 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM services



First United Methodist Church

501 Howe Street

Green Bay, WI 54301

(920) 437-9252

www.fumcgb.org