

St. James United Church

December 20, 2015/Blue Christmas Service

Minister: Rev. Terrie Jackson
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Music Director: Amy Dalziel
Soloist: Carys Jackson

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude
Words of Welcome



Call to Worship: (responsive)

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

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

One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the peace that Christ brings, we come together to acknowledge our pain.

All: All who receive Christ are given the power to become children of God.

One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the joy of Christ's coming, we come together to name our fears.

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

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

All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

One: Let us worship Emmanuel, God with us, in the midst of all the celebration and sorrow of this season.

Prayer of Invocation (together): God of love and comfort, who promises us an end to all mourning, crying, and pain, be present with us now as we bring our struggles before You. As You became flesh, experiencing all the grief and joy of being human, living and dying among us in this troubled world, send now Your Holy Spirit, our Comforter, to hold us in Your love as we acknowledge all the complex emotions that this season brings. With the lighting of these candles, may the light of Your presence shine among us and warm the bleak midwinter of our hearts. O come, Emmanuel, and fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Amen.

Carol: *Away in a Manger*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Solo: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v. 1

Lighting of the First Candle: Grief

Scripture: John 11: 32-35

Solo: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v. 2

Lighting of the Second Candle: Pain

Scripture: Matthew 11: 28-29

Solo: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v. 3

Lighting of the Third Candle: Fears

Scripture: Isaiah 41: 8-10

Solo: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v. 4

Lighting of the Fourth Candle: Struggles

Scripture: Revelation 21: 1-6a

Solo: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v. 5

Carol: *When a Child is Born*

*A ray of hope flickers in the sky, a tiny star lights up way up high,
All across the land dawns a brand new morn;
This comes to pass when a child is born.*

*A silent wish sails the seven seas, the winds of change whisper in the trees,
And the walls of doubt crumble tossed and torn;
This comes to pass when a child is born.*

*A rosy hue settles all around, you've got the feel you're on solid ground,
For a spell or two no-one seems forlorn;
This comes to pass when a child is born.*

*It's all a dream and illusion now, it must come true, sometime soon
somehow,
All across the land dawns a brand new morn;
This comes to pass when a child is born.*

Time of Remembrance and Prayer

Lighting the Christ Candle

Scripture: John 1: 1-5, 9-14

Solo: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* v. 7

Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

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Blessing & Sending Forth



Musical Postlude
