

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church  
Blue Christmas Service  
**December 2, 2018**  
**4:00pm**

Welcome and Introduction to Service		Pastor Matt
Hymn	<i>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”</i>	#230
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	Pastor Matt
Responsive Reading	Psalms 22	Sarah Benson

Leader: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?  
**People: O my God, I cry by day but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**

Leader: In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and you delivered them.

**People: It was you who brought me from the womb, you who kept me safe on my mother's breast. Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.**

Leader: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

**People: God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted. God does not hide from me. When I cry to God, God hears me.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Together we read	Psalms 23	Rodney Benson
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**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Special Music	<i>“In the Bleak Midwinter”</i>	Choir
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**Litany of Remembrance**

*After each response we will sing a verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #211*

Lighting of the First Candle		Pastor Matt
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**Response: We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.**

*O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

**Silent Reflection**

Lighting of Second Candle		Deloris Harrell
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**Response: We remember that through You all things are possible.**

**Refresh, restore, renew us, O God and lead us into your future.**

*O come thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily  
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Silent Reflection**

Lighting of Third Candle		Sarah Benson
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**Response: 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 the wheel the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.**

*O come thou day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thy advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Silent Reflection**

Lighting of Fourth Candle		Ramona Wescott
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**Response: 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.**

*O come desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind  
Bid then our sad, divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Silent Reflection**

Special Music	<i>“Winds Through the Olive Trees”</i>	Choir
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Prayers of the People		Pastor Matt
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Response after each petition: **“And in Your merciful love, answer.”**

Hymn	<i>“Away in a Manger”</i>	#217
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Scripture Reading	<b>Luke 2:1-7</b>	Kathy Seawell
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## Offering of Light

Pastor Matt

### Let us Pray

**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 froth with us into the darkness, this night and in the nights to come, until we see the dawn.**

Together let us read

Psalm 121

Peggy Snead

**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 even forevermore.**

*Leader:* Let us pray.

Carol Adams

**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.**

## Hymn

*Silent Night*

#239

*Leader:* Let us pray together.

Pastor Matt

**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.**

## Dismissal and Blessing

Pastor Matt

\* You are welcome to stay in this space as long as you would like. The altar is open for any and all who wish to come and pray for any reason this night. If you would like for someone to pray with you lift a hand and we will join you. If you wish to be anointed with oil and prayed over just come to the center here. We invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall following for a time of fellowship.

# Blue Christmas



*“To everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven”*

In this season of glad tidings we *pause* to acknowledge our hurt and pain and *pray* for comfort and peace.