

Blue Christmas

A Service of Remembrance and Hope

PRELUDE

GREETING

Welcome to this safe haven, this place of hospitality. Here, God surrounds us with love. Here, God is with us.

Welcome to this resting place. Here, God beckons us to bring our sorrows, our burdens, our strengths and our needs. Here, God is with us.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-15 (NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

Your compassion for us overflows, O God. We are facing our longest night. We come burdened with sorrow, loneliness, and sadness. We come seeking a place to set them down; a place where our words will be heard and our feelings honored. We need a place where we can drop our masks of good cheer so our tears can flow freely and our faces can wear the cares of all that we are carrying. Be among us this night, O God. Let your compassion heal us in this moment. Comfort us. Strengthen us. Care for us. Be Christ to us. Amen.

HYMN No. 211 vs. 1, 2, 6, 7
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: This first candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God who shares our life promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember Jesus who shows the way, who brings the truth and who bears the light.

Leader: This second candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season

All: May God's eternal love surround them.

Leader: This third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

All: May God restore to us the joy of our salvation.

Leader: This fourth candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

All: May the peace of God guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN No. 364 "Because He Lives"

SCRIPTURE Luke 7:11-19

SERMON "Don't Cry" Dr. Ed Volfe

CANDLELIGHTING AND RINGING OF BELLS

HYMN No. 239 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

BENEDICTION

May Jesus, the life that is light for all people, shine in your heart. No matter how small, no matter how dim, that light will stubbornly shine. And the darkness will not overcome it. Go in peace, with courage to face the coming days with hope and joy as you hear the Good News of Christ born unto us, every single day. Amen.

POSTLUDE



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Ed Volfe, associate pastor
Dr. Abe Smith, associate pastor
John Emory Bush, organist
Audio/Visual
Josh Brumett and Waverly Hammond

We Care

Congregational Care Support

Visit our Congregational Care Support page at <https://www.sharingtheheart.org/ministries/care-support/>

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a Christian one-on-one confidential care-giving ministry. Trained Stephen Ministers walk alongside people who are suffering from crises such as serious illness, grief, job loss, family difficulties, or other challenging life events, offering emotional and spiritual encouragement. Contact Rev. Ed Volfe at edvolfe@sharingtheheart.org, (972) 562-8556.

Military & Veterans Prayer Fellowship

Gives active-duty military, veterans, and their families the opportunity to meet, hear speakers, share stories and information in a prayerful and enjoyable environment. All are welcome at the meetings, 10:00 am. 2nd Wednesday of the month. Email mrkcampbell090@gmail.com or kbeeby@swbell.net.

Families Anonymous

For family and friends of individuals with drug, alcohol or related behavioral issues. Contact texens@me.com or call 972-839-0969 for meeting information.

Christmas Eve Services

First United Methodist Church McKinney

All services will be livestreamed on the website and on Facebook.

Children's Service

1:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Sanctuary Traditional Services with Candlelight and Communion

3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm & 11 pm

Wellspring Contemporary Services with Candlelight and Communion

3 pm, 5 pm & 7 pm

Melissa United Methodist Church

**3851 McKinney St.
Melissa, TX 75454**

6:00 & 8:00 pm Candlelight Services
11:00 pm Carols by Candlelight

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December 15, 2024 - 3:00 pm

First United Methodist Church McKinney
315 N. Church Street McKinney, Texas 75069

SharingTheHeart.org