

First Presbyterian Church Kasson, Mn.

Rev. Amanda Boss

December 12, 2021 Dan Kaufeld - Music 4:00 PM
Service of Wholeness and Healing: Blue Christmas

We Approach God

Welcome Blessing

Prelude: "I Wonder as I Wander" arr. by Sharon Aaronson
 Organ plays for a time of silent meditation.

*Call to Worship

L: Today we come looking for the Christ Child.

P: We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, our fears.

L: We come seeking relief from pain. With the psalmist of old we say,

**P: "O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.
Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low."**

* Hymn No. 88 "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*" verses 1 and 7

* Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, You know that we come to you with heavy hearts that we find hard to unburden. It is particularly in this time of year when the darkness of long solstice nights collides with the brilliance of Christmas lights, that we find it hard to express our losses.

Open us to the understanding that you are the source of all love and we need not feel so alone in our grief. Grant us wisdom to know that you—most of all—can be trusted, and that you are with us, especially when we are at our absolute worst.

* Assurance of Grace (in Unison)

We know, God of Love, that you are always with us even in our very darkest of times. We know that you forgive our many transgressions and that by leaning into your infinite patience and strength, we receive your mercy, your care, and your grace today. Amen.

We are Inspired by God

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 28-31 Pg. 816,818 OT
 John 14:26-27 Pg. 133 NT

Blessing for the Longest Night by Jan Richardson

* Hymn No. 144 "*In the Bleak Midwinter*" verses 1, 2 and 4

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost... when all Creation waits for the Light.

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

Leader: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss....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.

Leader: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time...and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered.

All: We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness, and in knowledge of our own mortality. 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

Leader: We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the story of Christmas... God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this 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

Prayer

God of mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent season for ourselves, and for our families and friends who live with the struggles of illness and the pain of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

*Hymn No. 121 "*O Little Town of Bethlehem*"

*Benediction

*Postlude: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"
By. John Schop, arr. by Robert W. Thygerson

Faith Alive Christian Resources; Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition (p. 53). Faith Alive Christian Resources. Kindle Edition.



Sunday December 12, 2021
Blue Christmas Service
First Presbyterian Church
101 6th Ave. NW
Kasson, MN