

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

7.00 pm

Longest Night/Blue Christmas

Welcome and Announcements ~ Jim

Prelude ~ *"Suite in G Minor"* (Thomas Dunford | Bach | 2018)

### Call to Worship

Today we come looking for the Christ Child.

**We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, our fears.**

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

**"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 836

*"Abide with Me"* (v 1,3,5)

### Advent Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Dear Lord, we come to you this day to express our failures and confusion regarding our relationship with you:

**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.**

We may be confused, sad, lonely, and feeling our losses without remembering that you are always there to support us. We tend even toward anger at you, Lord, because we feel in some way it is your will that we are unhappy. Sometimes we feel cut off from you because we allow our many hurts to engulf us. We lack trust in you.

**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 lowest.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Let us open our lives to God's healing presence and receive the Lord's acceptance of us!

**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.**

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 40: 1-5; 28-31

Christian Scripture

John 14.25-27

Meditation

"Those who wait"

### Liturgy of Intercession

The God of strength moves within us;

**the God of courage hears our distress.**

The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;

**the God of healing touches us when we are broken.**

When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,

**we turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.**  
When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,  
**we turn to our God, who is loving and present.**  
For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,  
**and we are not alone. Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch.**

**Lighting of the Candles**            John 1.1-5

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn 124**                            *"Still, Still, Still"*

**Benediction**

**Postlude** ~ *"Adagio In G Minor"* (Johnny Guitar Soul | Guitar Rock Collection Instrumental | 2019)

Some resources are from the Blue Christmas Service presented by the First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo, MI, with thanks.