

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

Blue Christmas

6:00 p.m.



All Saints Church
132 N Euclid Ave
Pasadena CA 91101
626.796.1172 www.allsaints-pas.org

We ask that you extend a respectful courtesy to others by silencing all devices when entering the Sanctuary.

In this service, we will have some singing appropriate to the Christmas Season, recognizing that this may not be a season of joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the emotions you may feel and offer it to God for healing and transformation.

We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

PRAYERS OF MEDITATION

*As the people gather before the service begins,
we encourage you to use the following prayers for meditation.*

God who takes on flesh, you are not confined by the rigid and narrow. Your love is expansive and flexible. Your compassion is deep. Your Wisdom is ancient and always being reborn. May we be open to you in all your manifestations, familiar and new, that we might not miss the miracle of your dwelling with us. Amen.

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

— *The Risk of Birth*, an Advent Poem by Madeleine L'Engle (1918–2007)

VOLUNTARY

Played by Jonathan Berry.

The congregation is seated during this service.

SALUTATION

Minister: For you, O God, our souls in silence wait.

People: Truly our hope is in you.

Minister: God dwells in you.

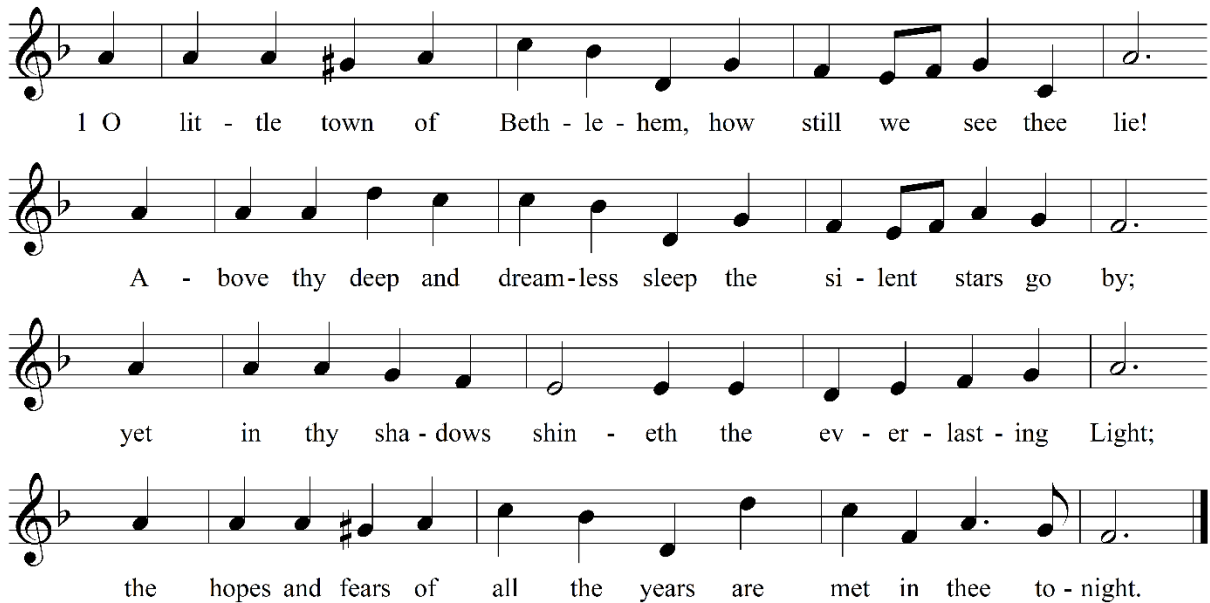
People: And also in you.

Minister: Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Minister: God of abundant mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice, even though our hearts are broken and our voices tremble with grief and sorrow. Comfort, comfort, O God, your Holy people. Comfort those of us who sit in bleakness, mourning beneath our sorrow's load. Speak to us of the peace that awaits us, of the balm of healing for our weary and wounded souls. We ask all this, trusting in the promise you have made to hear the prayers of two or three who have gathered in the Name of your Holy Child, Jesus. Amen.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



I O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

yet in thy sha - dows shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

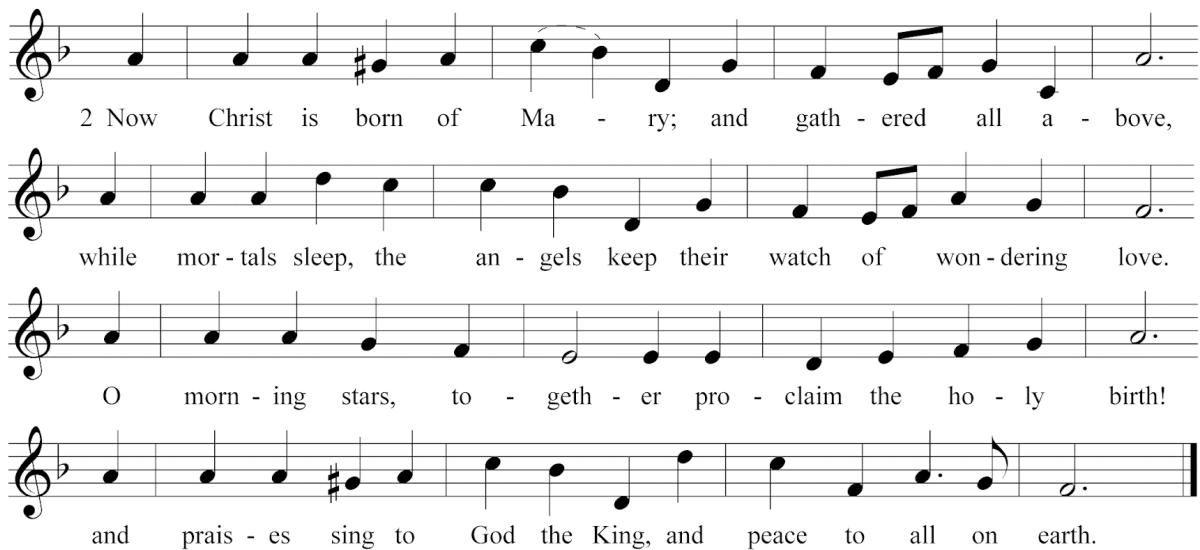
A Reading from Isaiah (40:1–11).

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, our God comes with might, comes to rule, comes with reward and recompense. God will feed the flock like a shepherd, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and gently leading the mother sheep.

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



2 Now Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

PSALM 22

Minister: 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.

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

People: It was you who took me from the womb, you who kept me safe upon my mother's breast; since my mother bore me, you have been my God.

Minister: 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. Thanks be to God!

LESSON**A Reading from Matthew (11:28–29).**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for you souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!

So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

SILENT REFLECTION

There follows a time for silent reflection. You are invited to print the name(s) of those who have died, those with whom you are no longer in relationship, or any subject of sadness for you or for others that you would like to be remembered this Christmas. You may place them in the basket on the altar.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER

Minister: God who is with us, in this season of looking forward; of anticipating the celebration of your Son's birth and return in glory; we often find ourselves uncomfortable, uneasy, worried and sad. The lights and gaiety, the music, the bright joy around us, often make us more unquiet, more out of step, feeling even more disconnected and different.

People: Come, holy Child of Bethlehem.

Minister: Some of these feelings come from false expectations. Others come from real situations and issues that face us or those we love. Some are from events we may influence and some are beyond our control. Trusting in your grace and provision, we name these situations and face the pain and dislocation they cause us. We claim your promise to companion us in bearing them. We claim your steadfast love for us, knowing you will help us find peace for our troubled spirits. We claim your wise and merciful power, that you will meet each need as is best for us.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice!

Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER

Minister: God of Light and Life, we light this candle for all those who are struggling with issues involving physical or mental health. We especially remember those struggling with cancer, depression, or thoughts of suicide. May its light remind us all of the healing available to us in Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers that anguish be minimized and your good plan fulfilled for each who suffers.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things
 might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice!
 Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER

Minister: We light this candle for all those who are struggling with issues involving financial concerns, job loss, and seemingly insurmountable debt. May its light remind us all that you are the Great Provider, you will give us our daily bread. Empower us to take the steps we need to solve these problems. Draw us to the right people and programs to help us.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe. Re - joice!
 Re-joice! Em-man - u-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER

Minister: We light this candle for all those who grieve. You know our deepest need, you understand our pain — lost dreams, lost opportunities, the separation of death. May its light remind us that we are not orphaned, we are not alone. Grant us grace that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, and in death resurrection.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's
 ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice!
 Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER

Minister: We light this candle for all those who wrestle with the chains of addiction. Help us to name that which enslaves us and face it: food, alcohol, drugs, pornography, shopping, escapism, self medication, and self abuse in all its forms. May this candle bring your light to those secret, and not so secret, activities of imprisonment. Hear our prayers for deliverance and freedom; help us and those we love break the hold of these evils.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - Joice!
 Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER

Minister: We light this candle for all those who are victims of violence in any of its forms. May its light lead us to peace, safety, and truth. Pour forth encouragement to claim your help in healing physically and spiritually, to trust in your justice, to find assistance, to resist blaming ourselves, to be confident in the future you have planned for us, a future full of hope.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
night, and death's bleak shad - ow put to flight. Re-joice!
Re-joice! Emman - u-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Minister: We light this candle for all those who are experiencing the pain of broken relationships with family, children, spouses, and friends. May its light remind us of the pure communion you desire for all your creation. Our desire for this same communion makes estrangement so painful. Lead us to relinquish the hold broken relationships have on us, to forgive ourselves

for our contribution to the breach, to forgive those who have hurt us, to take the steps to mend that relationship, if possible. Loving God, we know that sometimes we suffer from a broken relationship with someone who is now dead. Help us to prayerfully examine, receive and extend forgiveness in that situation, that we may live again.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of
 hu - man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice!
 Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER

Minister: We light this candle for all those who are suffering the consequences of war, famine and unbridled disease, of hunger. May its light remind us of your holy calling to everyone who believes you are the light of the world. Change the hearts of all who resort to violence,

who seek revenge. Protect those who find themselves far from home serving a greater purpose, or the needy. We know you are in the midst of those in anguish and pray that your healing presence will be seen, felt, and embraced. Reveal to us how to join in your saving work — to make tangible gifts to alleviate suffering, to support those on the front lines of natural and human-made disasters, to pray unceasingly for peace in our families, our neighborhoods, our world. To feed those who are hungry.

A period of silence is kept.

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice!

Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Minister: We light this candle for all those who are estranged from you, who are besieged with doubts, who are overwhelmed by the world and do not claim your presence in their lives. We pray for them, and therefore ourselves, for we confess that each of us knows this condition. Lord, may the light of your love lead us all home to you.

A period of silence is kept.

Minister: Let us pray in the language of your heart,

Minister and People:

Our Creator/Mother/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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Creador/Madre/Padre Nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a quienes nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación, y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

我们在天上的父，愿你的名被尊为圣，愿你的国降临，愿你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。我们日用的饮食，求父今日赐给我们。又求饶恕我们的罪，如同我们饶恕得罪我们的人。不叫我们遇见试探，拯救我们脱离兇恶。因为国度、权柄、荣耀，全是父的，永无穷尽。阿们。

HYMN “Silent Night”

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia;
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

BLESSING *Remain standing.*

Minister: My friends, life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make this earthly pilgrimage with us, so be swift to love, and make haste to do kindness, and the blessing of God, who comes to us as a fragile newborn, a refugee child, a light in the bleakness of the anguish and despair of God's people — be upon you and all whom you love and pray for this day, and forever more.

DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us bless the Lord.
 People: Thanks be to God.

*All are invited to remain in the sanctuary for prayer and silent reflection.
 God be with you this night, and always.*

NIGHT PRAYER

Lord
it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.
Amen.

— *“Night Prayer” From A New Zealand Prayer Book, for use in the Anglican Church in the Province of New Zealand*

This service is a compilation of prayers and litanies from various sources arranged by the Rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chatham, NJ, the Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton, who is deeply grateful for the work of the Rev. Jane Maffin, Anglican priest in the Church of Ottawa, and Jeanine Locicero, an Episcopalian who earns a living as Director of Worship Arts and Youth, Allendale United Methodist Church, Saint Petersburg, FL; and the work of the Rev. Amy Chambers Cortright.