

# Blue Christmas, Prayer & Healing Service

Where ever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.

Prelude

Harp instrumental

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

*Presider :* God of goodness and grace,  
we long for your presence,  
for the peace your promises bring,  
and for the assurance we have received  
through the gift of your Son.

**People:** **May we, your people  
have open eyes to see  
and open ears to hear  
your presence among us.  
Amen**

*Presider:* Lord it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. 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.**

*(please be seated)*

## LESSON

## 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, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader* : Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**All:** Thanks be to God

### PSALM – 121 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD himself watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> **So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep you safe.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth for evermore.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

*(all stand)*

*Presider:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Presider:* The Gospel of the Lord

**People:** **Praise to you Lord Christ**

## HOMILY

## Meditation – with candle lighting & healing prayers

During the meditation, all are welcome to come forward and light a prayer candle and/or pray privately with one of the healing ministers at the altar rail.

## Harp Instrumental

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader: Eternal God, in you we live and move and have our being, grant to all who seek you the assurance of your presence, your power and your peace. To you we sing:

The musical score is written for a harp in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a harp accompaniment line. The first system contains the lyrics: "O Lord hear my pray'r. O Lord hear my pray'r. When I call, ans - wer me." The second system contains the lyrics: "Lord hear my pray'r. O Lord hear my pray'r Come and lis - ten to me. O". The harp accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and single notes.

Reader: God of love, your will for all people is wholeness and salvation. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low. Mend broken relationships, and restore those in distress to peace of mind and hopefulness of heart. O God, in your love,

**People:** *Hear our prayer*

Reader: God of renewal, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly. Grant your healing grace to all who are sick, that we may be made whole in body, mind and spirit. Help us to know that you are there, in the midst of turbulence, to fill us with strength and hope. O God, in your love,

**People:** *Hear our prayer*

**Reader:** God of mercy and loving-kindness, grant to the dying peace and a holy death. Comfort and uphold those who mourn, that they may know the consolation of your love. And for those we love but see no longer, grant them peace, and let light perpetual shine upon them. O God, in your love,

**People:** *Hear our prayer*

**Reader:** God of peace, restore all that lies broken in our lives, in our nation, and in the world. Give us creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and the willingness to serve a wounded, broken world. May our hands be your hands, O God, hands of compassion and healing, of reconciliation and peace. To you we sing:

O Lord hear my pray'r. O Lord hear my pray'r. When I call, ans - wer me.

Lord hear my pray'r. O Lord hear my pray'r. Come and lis - ten to me.

**Presider:** God of light and life, we wait in the darkness expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully. Shine within our darkness that we may see the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ revealed. Come, Lord Jesus, come. **Amen.**

**Peace**

*(all stand)*

**Celebrant** The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**People** **And also with you.**

**SING***Wait for the Lord*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!" The music is in the key of D major and 4/4 time.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*All are invited to come forward and gather around the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer.*

*Presider:* O God most mighty and merciful,  
our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing.  
Full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,  
he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Christ's death, we cry out Amen. **[Amen.]**  
Celebrating Christ's resurrection, we shout Amen. **[Amen.]**  
Trusting Christ's presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

**[Amen.]**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
O God, you are Fire: warm our hearts and make us one

O God most majestic,  
most maternal,  
our strength and our song,  
you show us a vision of a tree of life  
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.  
Grant us such life,  
the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,  
life in you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Presider:* And now, as our Savior Christ  
has taught us, we pray together.

**People:** **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  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **BREAKING of the BREAD**

*Presider:* The gifts of God, for the people of God.  
Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome at  
Christ's table.

### **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to receive communion. If you would like a blessing instead, cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.*

### **Harp Instrumental**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Presider:* Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **SING**

*Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)*



1.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

3.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

### BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Presider: God be your comfort, your strength;  
 God be your hope and support;  
 God be your light and your way;  
 and the blessing of Almighty God  
 the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
 One God, Mother of us all  
 remain with you now and forever.  
**Amen**

*(a moment of silence is kept)*

### Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

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*If you would like further spiritual support, our priests are available by appointment.*

Liturgy adapted (by the Rev. Katie Cadigan) from: *The Book of Common Prayer (1979)*; *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*; *The New Zealand Prayer Book; Times and Seasons*; and the Rev. Leigh Mackintosh