

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 19, 2021

Blue Christmas Service

6:00 PM

PRELUDE *Greensleeves*

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

INTROIT *In the Bleak Midwinter*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) Liturgist: Michelle McDonald

Leader: Today we come looking for the Christ Child.

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

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

People: "O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

ALL: Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low."

HYMN # 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1)* Veni Emmanuel

UNISON 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.

LIGHTING CANDLES

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 10:32 - 11:1

HOMILY *Standing Your Ground*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)** [from: A Brief Statement of Faith]

In life and death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father...We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God...We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life...With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can

separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTERCESSION for HEALING

Leader: The God of strength moves within us;

People: the God of courage hears our distress.

Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;

People: the God of healing touches us when we are broken.

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

People: we turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.

Leader: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,

People: we turn to our God, who is loving and present.

Leader: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,

People: and we are not alone.

ALL: Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch.

***HYMN #122** *Silent Night, Holy Night! (vs 1 & 2)* Stille Nacht

***BENEDICTION**

May the power and the mystery go before us, to show us the way,
shine above us to lighten our world,
lie beneath us to bear us up,
walk with us and give us companionship,
and glow and flow within us to bring us joy.

***POSTLUDE** *Still, Still, Still* G. Evans/W. Ehret

This is a MORE LIGHT Presbyterian Church!

A "More Light" Presbyterian church welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons to full participation in the life, ministry, and witness of the congregation. We work to expand the inclusiveness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



. There are no closed doors here.

Christ Welcomes All Here!

First Presbyterian Church <http://www.bgpresb.org/>
More Light Presbyterians www.mlp.org www.mlp.org

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First Presbyterian Church

A More Light Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

126 S. Church St., Bowling Green, OH 43402

Blue Christmas Service ~ Remember Those We've Loved

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

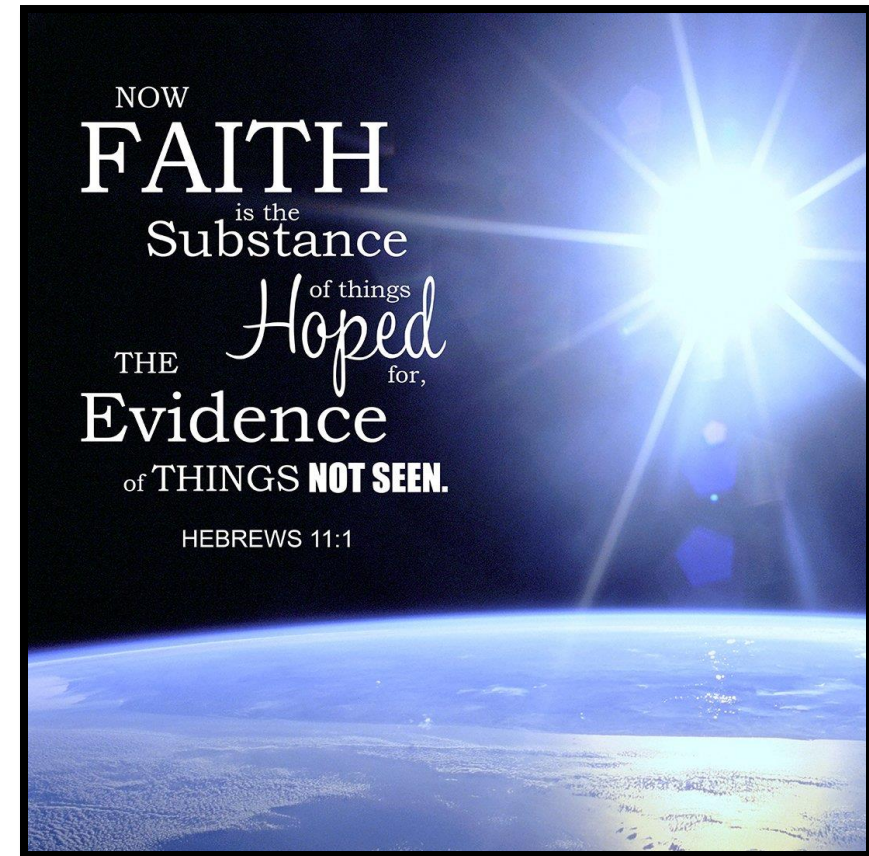
1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

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