

**Blue Christmas – Longest Night  
2021**

**Welcome**

***Music***

**Opening Prayer**

**It is Advent, the time of Christmas joy surrounds us, but we are filled with the painful memories of loss..... God, listen to us**

**We are grieving for a mother, a father, a life partner, for a grandparent, a child, a dear friend because they are still and integral part of our being.....God, listen to us**

**We are afraid to face this Christmas for we see them still in their usual place at table, or opening gifts with family because their essence has touched us in places so deep....God, listen to us**

**We are burdened with sadness. We do not know how to respond to those around who would comfort and encourage us...God, listen to us**

**We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past for we believe that you share in our lives in joy, in sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise...God, listen to us, and in your mercy, answer.  
Amen**

***Music***

**A Liturgy of Remembering  
*Four Blue Candles***

**This first candle we light to remember those we have loved and lost. We remember their name,**

***their face, their voice, the memory which binds them to us in this season. Response: May God's eternal love surround them***

**This second candle we light is to ease the pain of loss....loss of relationships, of laughter, of hope. We gather up the pain of the past and offer it up to God asking that, from God's hand, we receive the gift of peace. *Response: Refresh, restore, renew us O God and lead us into your future.***

**This third candle we light for ourselves this Christ time. We acknowledge these past weeks and months – the disbelief, the anger, the need to reminisce, the hugs and handshakes of family, friends and all those who stood with us. We give thanks for the support we have known. *Response: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.***

**This fourth candle we light to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers. We remember that God, who shares our lives, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering. *Response: Let us remember the one who shows us the way, who bears the light and share the truth.***

***Music***

**The final candle**

**We now light the final candle, the Christ Candle. On this, the longest night of the year, We invite and welcome the light of Christ Into the waning day.....**

The light which overcomes darkness  
The light which rises with every dawn,  
Even when we cannot see it.  
The eternal light of life and love  
Amen

### Closing Prayer

Loving God, at the beginning of this service, we shared those things which have caused us to call this Christmas blue We now offer them all to you. We ask that you free us from our sadness. Our experience of Christmas has been changed. We feel like we are on the outside, looking in. Bring back the joy, O God.

Fill our empty hearts and remind us that the celebration of your son's birth, the real Christmas, is a time of hope and promise. Comfort and be near us this Christmas we pray. *Response:* God, hear our prayer, and in your love, answer. Amen

### Benediction

Pastor: Beryl Barraclough DLM



## Blue Christmas Winter Solstice

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021



*There is room this year for sadness  
There is a place this year for you  
For God has cried in pain and loss –  
You saw it there upon the cross  
God know what it's like to feel blue*

*Adaptation from John Stuart – Heaven's Highway 2006*

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