

Thank you for being with us this evening.

This Blue Christmas worship service was adapted from two sources:

an order of worship developed and used at The Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew, Honolulu Hawaii;

and “A Service of Wholeness and Healing” by Jean Givens, available through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

We are grateful that these agencies have made these liturgies available to us.

You are welcome to join us here at First United Presbyterian for our upcoming services in the Advent/Christmas season, or any time!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 19 4th Sunday of Advent at 10:30 a.m. —

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 5:30 p.m. — *Lessons and Responses*

December 26 1st Sunday after Christmas at 10:30 a.m.

- *Join us for worship filled with stories & song from guest presenters*

January 2 2nd Sunday after Christmas at 10:30 a.m. - *“Come and See” where Christ is staying*

Church Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Noon

fupc.nm@gmail.com 505-425-7763 www.lvpresbyterian.org

Rev. Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 303-775-7356 pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com



BLUE CHRISTMAS

First United Presbyterian Church

Las Vegas, NM

December 12, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Rev. Katie Palmer and Rev. Randy Campbell, HR



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701
December 12, 2021 5:00 p.m.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

WELCOME

Rev. Katie Palmer

PRELUDE

Jordan Jones

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today we come looking for the Christ Child.

All: **We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, our fears. We come seeking relief from pain.**

One: With the psalmist of old we say,

All: **“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 *Abide with Me* (GTG #836, v. 1-3)

SHARING THE WORD (adapted from Psalm 22)

One: 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?

All: **O my God, I cry by day but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.**

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

All: **It was you who brought me from the womb, you who kept me safe on my mother's breast.
Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.**

One: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

All: **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.**

MEMORY STARS

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

One: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

All: **We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.**

*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.*

We observe a time of silent reflection

One: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace.

All: **We remember that through You all things are possible.
Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future.**

*O come thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

We observe a time of silent reflection

One: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the times we have walked alone, in darkness; and in knowledge of our own mortality.

All: **We remember that, though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have turned away
from the light, the light itself has not failed.
We remember that, though winter be upon us and though the night be dark,
with the turning of the Wheel the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.**

*O come thou day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thy advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

We observe a time of silent reflection

One: We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the story of Christmas, which began in a humble stable when a baby was born to a couple who, like all new parents, felt unprepared for what lay ahead. We remember that the loving God who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

All: **We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light,
and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.**

*O come desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

We observe a time of silent reflection

PRAYER

HYMN *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*

*For you O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.
O Comforter, rain down upon our spirits; our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word;
Come make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.
For you O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE