**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

**OUR SAVIOUR’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**AND**

**Our Saviour’s “Called to Care” Committee**

BLUE CHRISTMAS HEALING SERVICE Dec. 23, 2021

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

*\* All who are able please stand L: Leader; P: People*

Accompanist: Craig Bowden

Prelude

A Word of Welcome and Instruction

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the hope of Christ’s coming, we come together to share our grief.

**All: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.**

One: In the midst of this season when we celebrated the peace that Christ brings, we come together to acknowledge our pain.

**All: All who receive Christ are given the power to become children of God.**

One: In the midst of this season we celebrate the joy of Christ’s coming, we come together to name our fears.

**All: What has come into being through Christ is life, and that life is the light of all people.**

One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the love that Christ brings, we come together to be upheld in our struggles.

**All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.**

One: Let us worship Emmanuel, God with us, in the midst of all celebration and sorrow of this season.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The first candle shall be Hope/Grief

The second candle shall be Peace/Pain

The third candle shall be Love/Fears

The fourth candle shall be Joy/Struggle

HYMN: “Comfort, Comfort ye My People” Projected

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**ALL: God of love and comfort, who promises us an end to all mourning, crying, and pain, be present with us now as we bring our struggles before you. As you be among us in this troubled world, send now your Holy Spirit, our Comforter, to hold us in your love as we acknowledge all the complex emotions that this season brings. With the lighting of these candles, may; the light of your presence shine among us and warm the bleak midwinter of our hearts. O come, Emmanuel, and fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Amen.**

A MEDITATIVE REFLECTION ON PSALM 77 WITH WORD, SILENCE, & SONG

A Word of Faith Psalm 77:1-3

(Silent Reflection)

Song: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel VS 1" Projected

A Word of Faith Psalm 77:4-10

(Silent Reflection)

Song: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel VS 2" Projected

A Word of Faith Psalm 77:11-15

(Silent Reflection)

Song: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel VS 3" Projected

A Word of Faith Psalm 77:16-20

(Silent Reflection)

Song: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel VS 4" Projected

A PRAYER OF HOPE (Unison)

Gracious God, we trust that beyond absence there is a presence.

That beyond the pain there can be healing.

That beyond the brokenness there can be wholeness.

That beyond the anger there may be peace.

That beyond the hurting there may be forgiveness.

That beyond the silence there may be the word.

That beyond the word there may be understanding.

That through understanding there is love.

In Christ’s name. Amen.

A litany of Remembrance

L: In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask our God for all the good things we need: For ourselves as we participate in this Christmas as special people coping with our many different losses. God, hear our prayer.

**P: *And in your mercy, answer.***

L: For our families and friends, that they may continue to help and support us. God, hear our prayer.

**P: *And in your mercy, answer.***

L: For any person we have loved who has died, for all the losses we know in our lives, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise. God, hear our prayer.

**P: *And in your mercy, answer.***

L: For our family and friends, that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy. God, hear our prayer.

**P: *And in your mercy, answer.***

L: For peace throughout the world as proclaimed by the Christmas Angels on that faraway hillside. God, hear our prayer

**P: *And in your mercy, answer***

L: For greater understanding of the lessons of love and acceptance as taught by Jesus your Christ. God, hear our prayer.

**P: *And in your mercy, answer.***

HYMN: “There is a Balm in Gilead” Projected

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-2:15

A MEDITATION: “Unmet Expectations”

PASTORAL PRAYER

A SUNG MELODY OF CARE: “Spirit of The Living God”

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on Me:

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on Me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

We are lighting candles differently for safety reasons due to Covid-19. We are going to light the candles on the table at the front of the church while our accompanist plays meditative music. The light is the light of Christ so we ask that you pick one of the lights on a lit candle and focus on it giving over to the light of Christ everything you are struggling with while we quietly meditate together.

Song “Silent Night”

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.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,

Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav’nly hosts sing alleluia:

Christ the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face, When the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at the birth.

Benediction

\*Postlude