

BLUE CHRISTMAS

*AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF HEALING
FOR ANYONE STRUGGLING
WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH AT 6:30 PM

**OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
343 SCOTT ST, RIPON**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,
IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
& OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BLUE CHRISTMAS HEALING SERVICE

Dec. 19, 2024

** All who are able please stand*

L: Leader; P: People
Accompanist: Nicole Burdick

A Word of Welcome and Instruction

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Merciful God, In this season of rejoicing, we come to you weary and grieving. In this season of feasting, we hunger for healing and relief. In this season of light, our hearts are veiled in sorrow and shadow. Will this season ever end?

ALL: "Yes." We hear your, "Yes." Those who are weary will find rest. Those who mourn will be comforted. Those who hunger will be filled. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

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 FOR GRACE TO BEAR SUFFERING

I pray for the grace to bear my sufferings as Christ bore his for me With Dignity, Humility, Forgiveness.

I pray for the grace to bear my sufferings as Christ bore his for me With Compassion, Truth, Enduring

I pray for the grace to bear my sufferings as Christ bore his for me Knowing my sufferings are not like his and not like others yet shared with the universal longings of all humanity Real and Painful and Deep No need for comparison Only companionship

I pray for the grace to bear my sufferings as Christ bore his for me
As Christ bore his for all
All I will ever suffer
All we all will ever suffer
Will be made known
Will be made whole
Through his love and self-giving

In this I believe and trust and follow and hope
In this I am made new
Thanks be to God! Hallelujah! 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

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-38

A MEDITATION: "The Twists and Turns of Life"

with Rev. Clay Salmela

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

The lighting of the candles symbolizes our struggles. We invite any who wish to, to come forward and light a candle(s) letting their flame symbolize what you are grieving. You may also simply remain seated and chose one of the candle flames to represent that which you are grieving. When everyone who wishes to has come forward, we will lite any remaining candles.

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