



Trinity United Church

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You are...Wanted...Included...Affirmed

Monday, December 21, 2020

Theme: Blue Christmas 7 to 8 pm

† indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United



Core Values: Living Faith - Inclusive Fellowship - Joyful Service -
Anti-Racist

Intro: Blue Christmas or Longest Night is typically held on December 21 - the longest night (shortest daylight) of the year. It's an opportunity to acknowledge any type of grief that people are carrying, whether new or old; associated with a person, a place, a pet, or an event. It is also an opportunity to ground ourselves in the hope that is foundational to the Christian story and way. December 21 is also known as the Feast of Saint Thomas. The intersection of these three elements allows us to name the doubt Thomas experienced about Jesus' resurrection and the doubt that things will get better as many of us feel as we journey with grief. The worship is also designed to combine the reality that on December 22 more light starts coming into our day, we celebrate that God continues to do something different in our world through Jesus, and the hope enfolded in the resurrection is the same hope that enables us to daily walk with our grief. This year we also have a reminder in the night sky as the Bethlehem Star is visible for the first time in 800 years.

This evening you will need to have a candle and the blank ornament you received.

Opening Song:– Quiet Curve of Evening with Silent Night

Call to Worship

One: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; lest my enemy say “I have prevailed over him”; lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

**All: We come to you O Lord, seeking answers to our questions.
We come to you O God, because you are the Creator.**

One: But I have trusted your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

**All: We come looking for a song to sing;
We wait for your voice to call us from beyond our fear.**

Prayer: A Blue Christmas Poem by Christine Sine

Call to Lament

A Liturgy of Remembering

One: The first candle we light is to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their face, their voice, the memory that binds them to us in this season.

All: May God's eternal love surround them.

One: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss, the loss of someone who was very important to us, part of our lives, part of our own selves. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

All: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future.

One: The third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months, the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

All: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness, life overcomes death.

One: The fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: Let us remember the One Who shows the way, who brings the truth and Who bears the light.

Reflection: Learning to Grieve with Suzanne Stabile

Video: Mumford and Sons – After the Storm

Reading: Lines for Winter by Mark Strand

Prayer: from Guerrillas of Grace by Ted Loder

Benediction

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP BY: *Rev. Dr. Bob Fillier; Rev. Victoria Andrews; Rev. Teri Meyer; Rev. Dee McEachern; Rev. Tammy Lindahl; Rev. Kim McNaughton and Rev. Nancy Colton*