



**The Blue Christmas Service**  
*A Service of Remembrance*

**December 4, 2022**

**2:00PM**



## *Participants*

Rev. Dan Snyder, First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Claire George-Drumheller, First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Allison Beaulieu, Highland Presbyterian Church

Diane DeBord, DeBord Snyder Funeral Home

Jeremy DeBord, DeBord Snyder Funeral Home

Jordan Lenick, DeBord Snyder Funeral Home

## *Music*

Rila Hackett, piano

Beth Lavender, cello

Diane DeBord, soloist

*We thank Highland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, for  
their support of and participation in this service*

*If you would like an individual healing prayer said for you and your loved ones, members of First Presbyterian Church will be available in the Chapel following the service.*

PRELUDE ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***  
***The Manger***

arr. Mark Hayes

arr. Van der Beek/Schmidt/Nelson

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION

ONE: God is our refuge and strength.

**ALL: A very present help in trouble.**

ONE: Eternal God, our help in every time of trouble, send your Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen us, that we may have hope of life eternal and trust in your goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

SONG ***Coventry Carol***

arr. Mark Hayes

### THE FIRST CANDLE

#### *Health*

SCRIPTURE READING: **Ecclesiastes 3:1-11** (pg 470 OT pew Bible)

LITANY

ONE: When darkness surrounds us, we remind ourselves that God is light and shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**ALL: We were not created to live in darkness, not even in shadow. We were created to live in light.**

ONE: We light this first candle, claiming that we are desperate for light. And by lighting this candle we acknowledge the losses in the world and in our own lives due to health: losses from coronavirus, losses overshadowed or crowded-out by coronavirus, losses from long-term illnesses, and losses from sudden diagnoses. We acknowledge losses in our nation, our own neighborhoods, our families, and those suffering around the world.

**ALL: Though our sorrow is intense, light will overcome.**

ONE: In the beginning, when all was emptiness, before there was illness, God spoke, "Light."

**ALL: We receive the gift of light.**

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE (moment of silence)

## THE SECOND CANDLE

### *Resources*

SCRIPTURE READING: **Psalm 27:1-4** (pg 389 OT pew Bible)

#### LITANY

ONE: The light of the second candle declares our courage to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, and to walk in new ways.

**ALL: The illumination of light destroys the power of darkness.**

ONE: We light this second candle to remind our hearts that darkness is not stronger than light. And in lighting this candle we acknowledge the losses in the world and in our own lives related to resources: losses due to a suffering economy, losses due to unemployment, losses from lack of access to resources, losses due to the hoarding of others, losses that have left some homeless, losses that have left some to do more work on behalf of others.

**ALL: We share the promise that God has called us out of darkness into marvelous light. So, we light this light in the assurance that we are seen and we are loved.**

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE (moment of silence)

MUSIC *What Child is This*

arr. Van der Beek/Schmidt/Nelson

## THE THIRD CANDLE

### *Relationships*

THE BUTTERFLY STORY (see pg. 4)

#### LITANY

ONE: This third candle gives us the right to look back and remember. The power of these three lights gives us courage to look back and see what is not here today.

**ALL: We remember times we laughed, times we cried, the times we were angry, the times we loved. We feel the loss of the ordinary routines. We feel the heaviness of unfinished conversations.**

ONE: We light this candle to acknowledge the lost relationships in our world and in our lives: losses due to broken and strained relationships, losses through no fault of our own, losses from death, losses from relocation or changes in schedules, losses from neglect or busy-ness.

**ALL: God invites us to walk in the light. We know loss, and we have faith. We know loss, and we have trust. We know loss, and we know God's love. All of this is true.**

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE (moment of silence)

RECEIVING OF ORNAMENTS

*As the ornaments are distributed, you are welcome to come forward to light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.*

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION    ***O Come All Ye Faithful***  
***All is Well***

arr. Jay Rouse  
arr. Mark Hayes

THE FOURTH CANDLE

*Events*

LITANY

ONE: God is always ready to start again and is ready to prove to our hearts that grace abounds. So, we look forward with light, growing light.

**ALL: We look up the path into the future, into life, into healing.**

ONE: We light this fourth candle to remind us that we have not been forgotten. We acknowledge losses due to postponed, missed, and canceled events, milestones that felt overlooked, celebrations with diminished grandeur, rights-of-passage that did not happen customarily, and memorials that did not bring necessary closure.

**ALL: We light this candle with the hope that our light will always shine. We have not been forgotten and we have a way through the darkness.**

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE

SONG    ***You are Mine***

David Haas

LITANY OF REST Claire

ONE: Heavenly Light, you promise, "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."

**ALL: Help us remember to walk in your good way.**

ONE: Jesus, gentle and lowly in heart, you promised, "Come to me, all who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**ALL: Help us remember to give you our burdens.**

ONE: Creator God who rested on the perfect, seventh day, you promise, "There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from their works as God did."

**ALL: Help us remember to rest as you did.**

**Remember your promise; remember your people; remember your children, O God. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG    ***Silent Night***

arr. Van der Beek/Schmidt/Nelson

BLESSING & BENEDICTION



# The Butterfly Story

In a green meadow filled with Milkweed and flowers there lived a colony of caterpillars. They were a happy colony, living a quiet life in the cool shade. For many months they were very busy, scurrying around and munching on the soft Milkweed leaves.

They did notice that every once in a while, one of the colony seemed to lose interest in crawling around with its friends. It would go off alone and crawl high up in the trees. It gradually moved out of sight and was seen no more.

“Look!” said one of the caterpillars to another, “one of our colony is climbing up to the tops of the trees. Where do you think he is going?” Up, up and up it slowly went...even as they watched, the caterpillar disappeared from sight. Its friends waited and waited but it didn’t return.

“That’s funny!” said one caterpillar to another. “Wasn’t he happy here?” asked another. “Where do you suppose he went?” wondered a third. No one had an answer. They were greatly puzzled.

Finally one of the caterpillars gathered its friends together. “I have an idea. The next one of us who climbs to the tops of the trees must promise to come back and tell us where he or she went and why.” “We promise...” they all said solemnly.

One spring day not long after the caterpillar who had suggested the plan found himself climbing high up into the trees. Up, up, and up he went, higher and higher into the trees. Before he knew what was happening he had broken through the canopy of leaves into the warm sunlight and fell into a deep sleep.

When he awoke he looked about in surprise. He couldn’t believe what he saw. A startling change had come over his old body. He now had beautiful wings!

Even as he struggled he felt an impulse to move his wings. The warmth of the sun soon dried the moisture from his new body. He moved his wings again and suddenly found himself flying into the blue sky.



He had become a butterfly. Swooping and dipping in great curves he flew through the air. He felt exhilarated in the new atmosphere.

By and by the new butterfly landed on a leaf to rest. Then it was that he chanced to look below to the bottom of the meadow. Why, he was right above his old friends the caterpillars! There they were, crawling around and munching on Milkweed, just as he had been doing before.

Then the butterfly remembered his promise. Without thinking the butterfly darted down. He landed on a flower and looked into the grass. Now that he was a butterfly he could no longer go back.

“I can’t return!” he said in dismay. “At least I tried, but I can’t keep my promise. Even if I could go back, not one of the caterpillars would know me in my new body. I guess I’ll just have to wait until they become butterflies too. Then they’ll understand what has happened to me and where I went.”

And the butterfly winged off happily into its new world of sun and air.

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