



Blue Christmas Service

December 5, 2020 | 5:00 pm

Preludes

Nancy Lillie

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Courtney Gambrell

Lamentation/Responsive Reading

Kathy Albers

Leader We are crushed, afraid and overwhelmed by what we cannot understand.
People **Living God, be with us in our pain.**
Leader We are weary with weeping, sick with despair, aching with emptiness.
People **Living God, be with us in our pain.**
Leader We are confused and angry, but you do not answer.
People **Living God, be with us in our grief.**
Leader Our bodies cannot rise or rest, our hearts are like stones.
People **Living God, be with us in our pain.**
Leader We have lost our way and are isolated in our sorrow.
People **Loving God, stay with us.**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 40:2-4

Courtney Gambrell

I waited, I waited for the Lord.
And he stooped down to me.
He heard my cry.
He drew me from the deadly pit.
From the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock.
And made my footsteps firm.
He put a new song into my mouth.
Praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
And shall trust in the Lord.

Taizé (*sing 8 times through*)

Within our darkest night

**Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away,
never dies away. Within our darkest night,
you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.**

Homily

Kathy Albers

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.
O God, I call to you, come to me now,
O Hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.
Keep watch within me, God;
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.
All praise to the God of all Creator of life;
all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love.

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

Prayers of the People

Enriching Our Worship, 5

<i>Presider</i>	Send your Holy Spirit to transform our broken hearts
<i>People</i>	Lord of Love, save us and help us.
<i>Presider</i>	Forgive our despair, fill us with hope. And teach us to trust in your goodness.
<i>People</i>	Lord of Love, save us and help us.
<i>Presider</i>	Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes with the morning. When we are weary or lost,
<i>People:</i>	Oh Christ, lead us home.
<i>Presider</i>	When we are hopeless and sad
<i>People</i>	O Christ lead us home.
<i>Presider</i>	When we are angry and tears become our food.
<i>People</i>	O Christ lead us home.
<i>Presider</i>	When we are faithless and fearful.
<i>People</i>	O Christ lead us home.
<i>Presider</i>	When we grieve and despair.
<i>People</i>	O Christ lead us home.
<i>Presider</i>	Because you have been our companion in sorrow.
<i>People</i>	Holy Spirit, give us peace.
<i>Presider</i>	Because every one of us, you have made, lives forever.
<i>People</i>	Holy Spirit, give us peace.
<i>Presider</i>	Because suffering can make us kinder and more courageous.
<i>People</i>	Holy Spirit, give us peace.
<i>Presider</i>	Because nothing can separate us from our goodness.
<i>People</i>	Holy Spirit, give us peace.

Hymn

Be Not Afraid Songs for Worship #191

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far
in safety though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in foreign
lands and all will understand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

**Contemplative Living is an Inner Raking of the Heart-
Christine Valters Paintner**

I sit in the darkness
In that in-between moment
Between night and day

in this place of stillness I am at first assaulted
by thoughts that come unbidden
of things undone
of things to be done

feelings too lurk around the threshold
regrets and fears
a fleeting sense of joy

and still I sit
reluctant to step across the threshold
into what is next

it is time to linger
to wait upon the Lord

it is time to prepare
to cross into God's new thing
it is time to let go of those things that haunt and hinder
it is time to let love ripple through the deep waters of my soul
it is time to cling to the Divine

what is on the other side of the threshold
what will this day bring?
what will the days ahead bring?
what is unfolding in history, as stock markets rise and fall
pandemic isolation and elections done?
what dark forces lurk? what opportunities lie ahead?

this darkness, stillness is noisy
and yet I sit
and seek Sacred Presence

“Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ under me, Christ over me,
Christ to the right of me, Christ to left of me,
Christ in lying down, Christ in sitting, Christ in rising up”

I breathe in
I breathe out
and then I step

into this new day.

Please offer prayers either silently or aloud.

Blessing

Enriching Our Worship, 5

May God's love make you whole.
May the light of Christ guide your footsteps.
And may the presence of the Holy Spirit fill your
hearts and remain with you, this day and always.
Amen.

Solitude/ Quiet Reflection

Nancy Lillie

Please leave the meeting in prayerful silence.

A Community Celebrating and Sharing God's Love

All events on Zoom unless otherwise noted. For Zoom Links, email office@smbboulder.org

Sunday	12/6	9:15 am	Children's Church (Pre-K - Grade 5)
		10:00 am	Sunday Morning Prayer
		11:15 am	Advent Adult Forum: Creating a Rule of Life
Tuesday	12/8	9:15 am	Centering Prayer
Wednesday	12/9	9:00 am	Men's Discussion Group
		7:00 pm	SMM Youth Group (Grades 6 - 12)
Thursday	12/10	11:00 am	Bible Study with Fr Spencer
Saturday	12/12	5:00 pm	Contemplative Evening Service
Sunday	12/13	9:15 am	Children's Church (Pre-K - Grade 5)
		10:00 am	Sunday Morning Prayer
		11:15 am	Second Sunday Women's Gathering

Children's Church | Sunday, December 6, 9:15 - 9:45 am

This Fall, our elementary-aged children will embark on building their stories along with us. Each week, we'll explore a sacred story. Come wonder with us! Contact CYF Missioner [Sue](#) for more information.

Advent Adult Forum: Rules of Life with Rev Tory | Sunday, December 6, 11:15 am

Each Sunday in Advent after Morning Prayer, we will revisit the Way of Love as a community Rule of Life and build or update our own personal Rules of Life. What is a Rule of Life? Why should I have one? What is the Way of Love? If you're wondering, join us beginning November 29. For more information on the class, please contact [Rev Tory](#).

Centering Prayer | Tuesday, December 8, 9:15 - 10:15 am

Centering Prayer is a method designed to help facilitate the practice of contemplative prayer. Email [Barb Beaton](#) for more information.

Men's Discussion Group | Wednesday, December 9, 9:00 - 10:00 am

A group based on open discussion and examination of spiritual themes. Contact [Kip White](#) for more information.

SMM Youth Group | Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 pm

Youth Group (Grades 6-12) meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Contact CYF Missioner [Sue](#) for more information.

Bible Study with Fr Spencer | Thursday, December 10, 11:00 am

Join Fr Spencer Carr for Thursday Bible Study and 1 Corinthians. We'd like to extend a special welcome to newcomers who'd like to join -- all are welcome! Contact [Fr Spencer](#) for more information.

Advent Devotional | Read by Rev Tory on Instagram and YouTube

Similar to the Holy Week Devotional from earlier this year, Rev Tory has prepared a daily devotional for Advent. This devotional has readings from Scripture for each day of Advent, icons, a playlist of seasonal music, and a liturgy for celebrating Christmas at home. Rev Tory will also be reading it each day on [Instagram](#) (@smbboulderchurch) and the videos will be uploaded to our [YouTube channel](#). Please join us in making Advent a season of contemplation and growth. The devotional is available for [download here](#). Contact [Rev Tory](#) for more information.

Christmas Eve Family Service | Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 pm (Preludes begin at 3:30pm)

Join us for a virtual version of our Family Service, including photos of Christmas Pageants past! The service will feature our usual lessons and carols, including offerings from our virtual St Mary Magdalene Choir. Log on to Zoom starting at 3:30 pm to hear Mike Houlik and Cheryl Andrews' classical guitar Christmas medley duet.