A Blue Christmas Prayer Service

Words for Meditation: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Call to Worship: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Opening Prayer: Your compassion for us overflows, O God. We come into your presence burdened with sorrow, loneliness, and sadness. We come seeking a place to set them down; a place where our words will be heard   and our feelings honored. We need a place where we can drop our masks of good cheer so our tears can flow freely and our faces can wear the cares of all that we are carrying. Be among us this night, O God. Let your compassion heal us in this moment. Comfort us. Strengthen us. Care for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Old Testament Reading: Lamentations 3:19-26

Silent Meditation

Prayer: Gracious God, we look to you for compassion and thank you for your presence with us this night. Overwhelmed by our burdens we easily forget that you never leave us alone and that your steadfast love for us never falters. By coming together may we find assurance and comfort that we do not suffer or grieve alone. And help us to reach out to those whose who also need someone to walk with them. Grant that we may be your healing presence in their lives by bringing them your compassion and comfort that will assure them that they do not suffer alone. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-5

Silent Meditation

Prayer: God, who is with us, in this season of looking forward, of anticipating the celebration of your Son's birth and return in glory, hear our prayer. We often find ourselves uncomfortable, uneasy, worried, and sad. The lights and gaiety, the music, the bright joy around us, often make us unquiet, out of step, feeling even more disconnected and different from those around us. Come to us Emmanuel. Amen
 Special Music

Liturgy of Remembering -   **Light a candle for your loved ones**

Light the first candle

L: The first candle we light is to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, and the memories that binds them to us in this season.

Light second candle

L: 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, including the losses from covid, and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

Light third candle
L: 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.

Light fourth candle

L: 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 look to Jesus-Emmanuel, the One Who shows the way, who brings the truth, who bears the light, and who can bring us peace.

Hymn: "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

LITANTY

L: In this season of rejoicing, we come to you weary and grieving.
P: In this season of feasting, we hunger for healing and relief.
L: In this season of light, our hearts are veiled in sorrow and shadow.
P: Will this season ever end?
L: Yes, those who are weary will find rest, those who mourn will be comforted, those who hunger will be filled.
P: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.
L: Lord, we praise you for Jesus, the Light of the World, who is Emanuel, God with us. May we receive His peace. Amen

Benediction

****

Chazy Presbyterian Church
Christ & St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church
First Presbyterian Church of Rouses Point
Mooers United Methodist Church
Mooers Wesleyan Church
St. Ann's Catholic Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Three Steeples Methodist

Blue Christmas Service
December 13, 2021