

Blue Christmas
A Service of Healing and Hope

December 20, 2020

9:30 am

THE FEDERATED CHURCH

Wauconda, Illinois

A community church affiliated with the
United Methodist Church and the American Baptist Churches.



CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Soon Sun Lee

Youth Pastor: Pastor Crystal Johnson

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Blue Christmas, A Service of Hope

Prelude "When Love was Born" - sung by Mark Schultz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKSU9Dbxvrw>

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Knight

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by God, and without God nothing came to be.

P: **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

GREETING

Pastor Soon Sun

OPENING PRAYER: God of Mercy, we come before you as hurting people, bringing ourselves, our pain, our sorrow, our frustration, and our concerns this morning. In a time when everyone around us seems to be experiencing Christmas joy, we walk in great darkness in a time of great light. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of the Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promises. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: As a symbol of Christ as Love

MUSIC VIDEO "You'll never Walk Alone" By Josh Groban

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tdr0OvvnwQ>

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Louise Bundy

A LITANY OF REMEMBERING

Lisa Knight

Leader: We light this first candle (*the candle is lighted*) to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices, the memories that bind them to us in this season.

People: May God's eternal love surround them.

(Moment of Silence)

Leader: We light this second candle to redeem the pain of loss: the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. 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.

People: Comfort us, O God, and give us peace for the future.
(Moment of Silence)

Leader: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmastime. We pause and remember these past weeks and months: the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the joy and sorrow of memories, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends who care for us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

People: We thank You, God, for meeting us in our pain.
(Moment of Silence)

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

People: We thank You, God, for sending others to remind us that we are never alone.
(Moment of Silence)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor: We light **the Christ candle** to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We pause to remember that God is WITH us in our pain and loss. to shine in the shadows of our souls. We yearn for this gracious light to warm us, to nourish us, and to give us strength.

**All: We thank You, Lord, for being the light in our darkness.
In You, we place our trust. And we ask you, O Holy One, to be with us
always in our healing walk on this darkened earth.**

Music Video “You Raise Me Up” by Lucy and Martha Thomas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dU00EuczOiA>

While listening the song “You raise me up”, you are invited to light a candle in remembrance of your loved ones, sorrow, pain or struggle.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Lisa Knight

2 Kings 20:5 (Common English Bible)

I have heard your prayer and have seen your tears. So now I’m going to heal you.

Isaiah 43:1-3, 5 (Common English Bible)

Lisa Knight

But now, says the LORD—the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with

you; when through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be scorched and flame shall not burn you. I am the LORD your God, the HOLY ONE of Israel, your Savior. Do not fear, for I am with you.

Psalm 22

Lisa Knight

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and you delivered them. It was you who brought me from the womb, you who kept me safe on my mother's breast. Since my mother bore me, you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted. God does not hide from me. When I cry to God, God hears me. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 71: 1-5, 9, 12

Lisa Knight

1 In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.
3 Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
5 For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength is spent. 12 O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!

MEDITATION

Pastor Soon Sun

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE

Pastor Soon Sun

Leader: God of wisdom, we come to you this Christmas Season tired, in turmoil, and in pain. As the nights have grown longer, so has darkness grown and wrapped itself around our hearts.

In this blue Christmas season, we ask your healing blessings upon all that we carry in our hearts, sorrow we fear may never end, wounds we cannot even put into words. Lord, hear our prayer,

All: And in Your merciful love, answer.

Leader: God of mercy and compassion, there are those among us who are grieving over what might have been. Death or loss or terrible hurt has changed our experience of Christmas. We remember that once it was a special day for us, too, but someone or something precious has gone away from us in this life. We have lost a beloved, a job, a goal, a cause, a dream. We find ourselves adrift and alone. We are weary from the journey, and we have found no room at the inn. We come to you seeking rest, and peace, and shelter from the storm. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: And in Your merciful love, answer.

Leader: God of grace, in the spirit of the season, grant us all that we need to comfort us as we journey through this Christmas season.

We ask that you shelter and sustain all those of us, both here and throughout the world, who wander or want or weep or are heavy laden, that we may be lifted up in courage and journey on in Thy peace. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: And in Your merciful love, answer.

Leader: God of love, in this Christmas Season we embrace and offer up to you all that used to be which is now lost to us, and cannot be again.

With celebration all around us, memories of what was, and fears of what may be, weigh heavy on our hearts. Please hold us close in your embrace, be near to us this night, until the light returns and morning comes.

Lord, hear our prayer,

All: And in Your merciful love, answer.

Leader: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this day, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, Lord; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and lead us, Lord. We ask in the name of Christ who taught us to pray together saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

OFFERING TIME

HYMN “SILENT NIGHT” By 4-Year-Old Claire Ryann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-28cdRYzR4w>

BLESSING

Go in peace and faith.

May the God of Grace heal you, body and soul.

May your pain cease.

May your strength increase.

May your fears and worries be released.

And may blessings, love, and joy surround you – now and always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Pedestal Flowers – The flower arrangement here this morning is a gift of love from Virginia Reardon in honor and memory of her husband Bob and their wedding anniversary.

Also Thank You to Anne Petersen and Heidi Leo for displaying the poinsettias so beautifully – and thank you to all who donated them!

Sunday School at 10:00 this morning via Zoom!

Coming Up This Week:

Tuesday 12/22 – Last Session of Bible Study – 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Thursday 12/24 – Christmas Eve Services 4:00 pm (live-stream on
Facebook)

and 11:00 pm (a pre-recorded service,
available on Facebook)

Friday 12/25 – **Merry Christmas!**

Sunday 12/27 – 9:30 Worship

Please note: The Church Office will be closed the week of 12/28.

