

December 21, 2025

Blue Christmas Service

Order of Worship

The service begins in silence so all may participate in a time of reflection: May God help each of us to participate tonight and throughout the season as we are able.

Pastoral Greeting:

*Call to Worship:

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone. For the yoke that was weighing upon them, and the burden upon their shoulders, you have broken in pieces, O God, our Redeemer. Let us pray:

P: God of mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent season for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

Opening Hymn: “Nobody Knows the Trouble I See” UMH # 520

P: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth

L: He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

P: Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

L: The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

P: So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night

L: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

P: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Hymn:

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

UMH #375

Homily on Hope:

Invitation to Prayer:

Prayer Refrain: “God Will Take Care of You”

UMH #130

“The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation,
in God I trust, in God I trust”.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Closing:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

UMH #211

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Benediction:

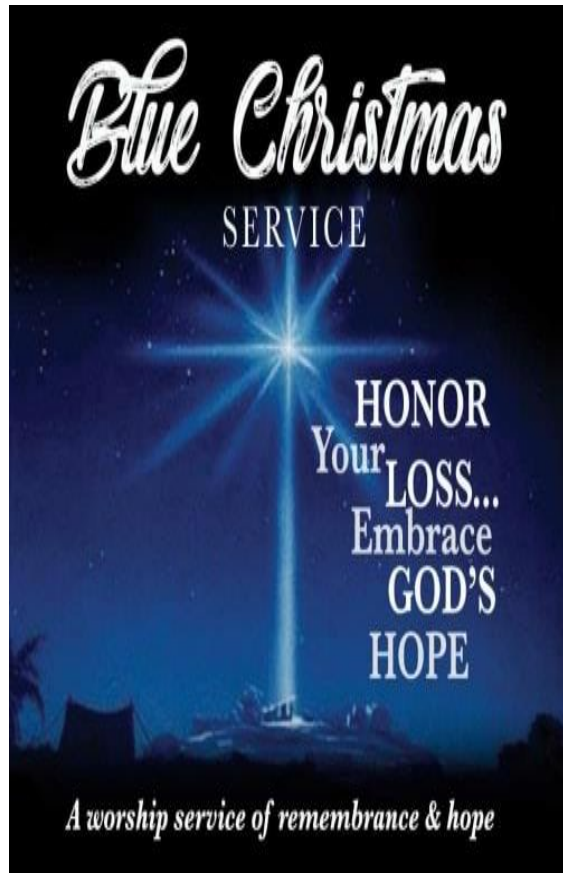
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“The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”



Grief & Loss Support Group:

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one or have experienced losses in other areas of life, join us to learn how to live with such losses in healthy ways.

*The group, meets on Wednesday's at 11:00am
at St. John's UMC
409 Fairview Ave, West Berlin, NJ
(All meetings are In-person or Online)*

If you have any questions or if you would like to sign up, you may contact the Group Leader, Ms. Mamie Brown at 609-254-4690

Everyone is welcome regardless of their faith or church affiliation!



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