



# Blue Christmas

A contemplative service of healing and hope on the longest night of the year

**Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church**  
Kenwood, CA

December 21, 2024  
5:00pm

# THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

## Prelude

*Gymnopédie No. 1 by Erik Satie-*

*Guest Pianist: Yvonne Wormer*

*The ministers enter in silence, the people standing:*

## Words of Welcome

*Presider:* Welcome to this Blue Christmas, a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas, when memories of the past and the pain of the present can become overwhelming. In this service, we'll have some singing appropriate to the Advent and Christmas Seasons, recognizing that this is not a season of joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, loneliness, and sadness you may feel, and offer it to God for healing and transformation. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Remember that God knows your pain and loves you unconditionally.

## Opening Prayer

*Presider:* For you, O God, our souls in silence wait.

*All:* Truly our hope is in you.

*Presider:* God of abundant mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice, even though our hearts are broken and our voices tremble with grief and sorrow. Comfort, comfort, Lord, your Holy people. Comfort those of us who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath our sorrow's load. Speak to us of the peace that awaits us, of the balm of healing for our weary and wounded souls. We ask all this, trusting in the promise you have made to hear the prayers of two or three who have gathered in the Name of your Holy Child, Jesus. **Amen.**

*All sing*

**Hymn 67** "*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*"

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

*Lector* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

*Selected verses from Isaiah 40*

"Comfort, comfort my people" says your God. "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that the time of service is ended ...

Look up to the heavens! Who made the stars, if not the One who drills them like an army, calling each one by its own name? So mighty is God's power and strength that not one fails to answer.

Israel, why then do you complain that our God does not know your troubles or care if you suffer injustice? Our God, the everlasting God, the creator of the farthest parts of the earth, never grows tired or weary.

No one can fathom the depths of God's understanding. God gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 22

*Lector* 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?

*People* *O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but I find no rest.*

*Lector* In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted and you delivered them.

*People* *It was you who took me from the womb, you who kept me safe upon my mother's breast; since my mother bore me, you have been my God.*

*Lector* Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

*People* *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!*

*All sing*

**Hymn 662** *“Abide with me: fast falls the eventide...”*

**The Gospel**

**Matthew 11:28-29**

*Lector*      A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      Thanks be to God.

*There follows a time for silent reflection.*

## **CANDLE LIGHTING & LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE**

*Reader:* God who is with us, in this season of looking forward; of anticipating the celebration of your Son's birth and return in glory; we often find ourselves uncomfortable, uneasy, worried and sad. The lights and gaiety, the music, the bright joy around us, often make us more unquiet, more out of step, feeling even more disconnected and different.

*All: Come, Holy Child of Bethlehem*

*Reader:* Some of these feelings come from false expectations. Others come from real situations and issues that face us or those we love. Some are from events we may influence and some are beyond our control. Trusting in your grace and provision, we name these situations and face the pain and dislocation they cause us. We claim your promise to companion us in bearing them. We claim your steadfast love for us, knowing you will help us find peace for our troubled spirits. We claim your wise and merciful power, that you will meet each need as is best for us

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

## **Candle #1**

*Presider:* God of Light and Life, we light this candle for all those who are struggling with physical or mental health. We especially remember those struggling with cancer, depression, or thoughts of suicide. May its light remind us all of the healing available to us in Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers that anguish be minimized and your good plan fulfilled for each who suffer.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

## **Candle # 2**

*Presider:* We light this candle for all those who are struggling with financial concerns, job loss and seemingly insurmountable debt, especially in this time of recession. We also remember the homeless in our community. May its light remind us all that you are the Great Provider, you will give us our daily bread. Empower us to take the steps we need to solve these problems. Draw us to the right people and programs to help us.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

## **Candle #3**

*Presider:* We light this candle for all those who grieve, especially those in our parish family, whom we now name (*Time is given to say the names of our loved ones who have died – silently or aloud*). You know our deepest need, you understand our pain-lost dreams, lost opportunities, the separation of death. May its light remind us that we are not orphaned, we are not alone. Grant us grace that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, and in death resurrection.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

#### **Candle #4**

*Presider:* We light this candle for all those who wrestle with the chains of addiction. Help us to name that which enslaves us and face it: food, alcohol, drugs, pornography, shopping, escapism, self-medication, and self-abuse in all its forms. May this candle bring your light to those secret, and not so secret, activities of imprisonment. Hear our prayers for deliverance and freedom; help us and those we love break the hold of these evils.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

#### **Candle #5**

*Presider:* We light this candle for all those who are victims of violence in any of its forms. May its light lead us to peace, safety, and truth. Pour forth encouragement to claim your help in healing physically and spiritually, to trust in your justice, to find assistance, to resist blaming ourselves, to be confident in the future you have planned for us, a future full of hope.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

#### **Candle #6**

*Presider:* We light this candle for all those who are experiencing the pain of broken relationships with family, children, spouses, and friends. May its light remind us of the pure communion you desire for all your creation. Our desire for this same communion makes estrangement so painful. Lead us to relinquish the hold broken relationships have on us, to forgive ourselves for our contribution to the breach, to forgive those who have hurt us, to take the steps to mend that relationship, if possible. Lord, we know that sometimes we suffer from a broken relationship with someone who is now dead. Help us to prayerfully examine, receive and extend forgiveness in that situation, that we may live again.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

### **Candle #7**

*Presider:* We light this candle for all those who are suffering the consequences of war, famine and unbridled disease. May its light remind us of your holy calling to every one who believes you are the light of the world. Change the hearts of all who resort to violence, who seek revenge. Protect those who find themselves far from home serving their nations or the needy. We know you are in the midst of those in anguish and pray that your healing presence will be seen, felt, and embraced. Reveal to us how to join in your saving work- to make tangible gifts to alleviate suffering, to support those on the front lines of natural and manmade disasters, to pray unceasingly for peace in our families, our neighborhoods, our world.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Silent reflection.*

### **Candle #8**

*Presider:* We light this candle for all those who are estranged from you, who are besieged with doubts, who are overwhelmed by the world and do not claim your presence in their lives. We pray for them, and therefore ourselves, for we confess that each of us knows this condition. Lord, may the light of your love lead us all home to you.

*All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

*Please gather around the candles, forming a circle.*

*"I wonder as I wander"*

*Mark Kratz*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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 and ever. Amen.

*Please return to your seats.*

*All sing*

## **Hymn 111 "Silent Night"**

## **The Blessing**

*Presider:* My friends, life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make this earthly pilgrimage with us, so be swift to love, and make haste to do kindness, and the blessing of God, who comes to us as Creative Presence, Saving Grace and Lifegiving Spirit be upon you and all whom you love and pray for this day, and forever more. *Amen.*

*All sing*

## **Hymn 56 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

## **Dismissal**

## **Postlude**

*Pie Jesu- by Andrew Lloyd Webber*

*Guest Pianist: Yvonne Wormer*



**Christmas at St. Patrick's**

**Christmas Eve Service**

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00PM

**Christmas Day Service**

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM





### Ministers at Worship Today

**Presider:** The Rev. Mack Olson

**Crucifer:** Minnerva Haddad

**Lectors:**

OT and Psalm – Minnerva Haddad  
NT – Stephanie Chapralis

**Intercessor:** Marilyn Ganz

**Usher/Greeter:** Matt Ganz  
**Usher/Greeter:** Eleanor Albon

**St Patrick's Music:**

Mark Kratz, St Patrick's Music Director  
Yvonne Wormer / Guest Pianist

**Zoom Service Host and Technician:** Karl Mutch

### Welcome to St Patrick's

**Fr. Mack email** mack.saintpatricks@gmail.com  
**Phone/text: 707-395-5572**

**Clergy:** The Rev. Mack Olson, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Carol Luther, Associate  
The Rev. L.A. King, Associate  
The Rev. Karen King, Associate

**Vestry:**

Jackie Senter, Sr Warden	Ron Keith, Jr Warden
Minerva Haddad, Clerk	Wendy Wood, Treasurer
Chuck Wood	Leslie Clark
Matt Ganz	Xavier Cabrales
Adele Daw	

### Weekly Events at St. Patrick's

**Art with Kate Rogers** Mondays, 11 am  
**Tuesday Coffee Hour** via Zoom at 10 a.m.

**Holy Communion with healing prayer & anointing**

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. Church

**Praying the Gospel of Thomas**, Every Thursday, 8-8:45 am via Zoom

**Compline**- 4 p.m. on Thursdays via Zoom  
**Wellspring** Every Friday 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Facilitator – Sharron Simpson

### Monthly Events at St. Patrick's

**Nomadic Shelter** January 4<sup>th</sup>

Ministries of the parish that we cannot directly accomplish, except by our hospitable welcome to the following groups who meet at St Patrick's:

\* AA Group, weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00PM, meets in the Parish Hall.

\* Al Anon Group weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30PM meets in the Common Room.

\* PEO, once a month on the first Thursday at 10AM, meets in the Parish Hall

St Patrick's Episcopal Church is a congregation for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California and the Russian River Deanery. The church is located in Kenwood, California at 9000 Sonoma Highway. The mailing address is P.O. Box 247, Kenwood, CA 95452 The email is parishadm9000@gmail.com and telephone is 707-833-4228 Copyright © 2024 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved