



Blue Christmas (Longest Night)
A Service of Healing and Hope

*First Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon
501 Fayette Avenue
Rostraver Township, PA 15012*

Blue Christmas (Longest Night) Service

December 21, 2022, 6 pm

PRELUDE

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-4

Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." And so, we invite each other to this time of peaceful worship. Tonight, we come looking for the Christ child.

People: We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, and our fears.

Leader: We come seeking relief from pain, anxiety, loneliness, and despair. With the psalmist of the Scriptures we say,

**People: "O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."
We come tonight to rest with God.**

HYMN INTRODUCTION *"Abide with Me," Henry Lyle*

Liturgist

Hymn: Abide with Me (verses 1, 2, 3)

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SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Psalm 126, Revelation 7:15-17
Luke 2:4-7; Matthew 2:13-15*

Liturgist(s)

REFLECTION

Pastor

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Pastor

Leader: The God of strength moves within us;

People: the God of courage hears our distress.

Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us:

People: the God of healing touches us when we are broken.

Leader: When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,

People: we turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.

Leader: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,

People: we turn to our God, who is loving and present.

Leader: For God created us, redeemed us, and sustains us,
and we are not alone.

**People: Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your
healing touch. Amen.**

HYMN: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

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LITANY OF REMEMBERING

Pastor

Pastor: This first candle . . . binds them to us in this season.

People: May God's eternal love surround them.

[A moment of silence.]

Pastor: This second candle . . . we receive the gift of peace.

People: Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

[A moment of silence.]

Pastor: This third candle . . . for all the support we have known.

People: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.

[A moment of silence.]

Pastor: This fourth candle . . . us a place and time of no more pain and
suffering.

**People: Let us remember the one who shows the way,
who brings the truth and who bears the life.**

[A moment of silence.]

Pastor: In the center of this circle, we light the Christ candle, . . . he offers us hope
and healing.

HYMN **“We Walk By Faith, and Not By Sight”**
(verses 1-3)

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INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

Liturgist

Leader: The God of strength moves within us;

People: the God of courage hears our distress.

Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;

People: the God of healing touches us when we are broken.

Leader: When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,

People: we turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.

Leader: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,

People: we turn to our God, who is loving and present.

Leader: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,

**People: and we are not alone. Lead us in your ways,
O God, and bring us your healing touch.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE OIL

Pastor

TIME OF ANOINTING AND CONTEMPLATION

*Music: Somewhere in your Silent Night,
Make Room, Breath of Heaven.*

***HYMN: Silent Night (verses 1, 3, and 4)**

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BLESSING

PASTOR

POSTLUDE

You are invited to join us downstairs in the fellowship hall for refreshments and for fellowship, for a smile and a kind word. We pray that you have received the strength you are seeking and that the peace of this night will go with you.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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