



First Presbyterian Church
Blue Christmas Vespers

December 20, 2022

7:00 p.m.

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” arr. Jason Payne

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Blessed be the God of our salvation,
***who bears our burdens, forgives all our sins,
and restores our joy.***

All those who await the Lord's presence cry out:
"Come, Lord Jesus!"

Opening Prayer

* Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1, 5, 6, 7)

Litany of Remembrance

Lighting of the First Candle

***We remember them with love.
May God's eternal love surround them.***

Lighting of the Second Candle

***We remember that, through you, all things are possible.
Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.***

Lighting of the Third Candle

***We remember that, though we have journeyed far and may have turned away
from the light, the light itself has not failed.***

Lighting the Fourth Candle

***We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the
Light, and who journeys with us into tomorrow.***

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (OT, p. 638)

Second Reading: Psalm 139:1-18 (OT, p. 577)

Third Reading: Luke 1:68-79 (NT, p. 58)

Canticle: "A Song of Christ's Goodness"

Anselm of Canterbury

Canticle: "A Song of Our True Nature"

Julian of Norwich

A reading from the poet: "Wild Geese"

Mary Oliver

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Candle Lighting

*All are invited forward to light a candle on the table if they wish,
naming a struggle with the season or naming those they have loved and lost.*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer ("debts" and "debtors")

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

* Blessing

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Bless the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

* Postlude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

arr. Gordon Young

For those who wish to make an offering, the ushers will be standing at the side door.

* All who are able shall stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Pastors

Rev. William G. Carter

Rev. James E. Thyren

Organist

Kay Ten Eyck

Liturgists

Alan Baker, Diana Pope-Albright,
Jamie Strong

**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

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