

December 21st, 2021 Blue Christmas

Worship Link: https://youtu.be/HD3swJ_KBJA

PRELUDE: *O Come, o come Emmanuel*

Arranged, video & played by Michael Lemiski

OPENING WORDS:

CAROL: #166 *Once in Royal David's City*

by Cecil F. Alexander

♪ *Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above,
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by we shall
see him - but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
There God's children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned*

SLIDE SHOW OF LOVED ONES

♪ *Eve of Christmas – Allison Lupton*

REFLECTIONS (Pat McNicol, Ruth (McAvoy) Bennett)

- **GRIEF WORK AT CHRISTMAS:**
 - *Podcast Clip: Diana Kokku & Jim Otrembra*
- **SCRIPTURE:** (selected verses for this longest night)
Reader: Laurie Thomson

This is the word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

- **MUSIC:** *Breath of Heaven* (sung by Amy Grant)

PRAYER: Refrain: #165 *O little town of Bethlehem*

by Philips Brooks

Loving God, as we gather tonight – be with us tenderly...

♪ *O, little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!*

*Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

We come in prayer O God – looking for your light ...

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings born of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still –
the dear Christ enters in.*

On this night, o dear Christ – enter in...remind us that...

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.*

ORNAMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE