

# ~ Welcome ~

## Blue Christmas: A Service of Reflection for the Longest Night December 12, 2021, 3:00 PM

### Prelude

“I Wonder as I Wander”  
Arr. By: Cindy Berry

### Call to Worship

*Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Leader: 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:

**People: 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 your Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.**

### The First Reading from Isaiah

*Leader: The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 121

UMH #844

### A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

*Leader: The Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 1)

UMH #211

### A Message of Hope

John Weiss

### Liturgy of Remembrance

### Lighting of the Four Candles

*First Candle:*

*Leader:*

**All: Lord, each of us takes our loved one by the hand and leads them to you, the God of love. Here we present them to you. Accept our love and thanksgiving as we entrust them to your loving care. We want our loved ones to be free at home with you. We ask that you save a place for us beside them. We ask that you fill us with motivation and energy in the days ahead when we feel like giving up; remind us often of our true homeland when we are caught up in the desolation of the journey. Help us to find joy in the people, events and the beauty of nature which surrounds us.**

*Leader:*

**Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 2)

UMH #211

*Second Candle:*

*Leader:*

**All: God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you. We come before you in need of peace, grateful for the mystery of life and ever keenly aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you, but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. Amen.**

**Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 3)

UMH #211

*Third Candle:*

*Leader:*

**People: God of our depths, we cry out to you to be our guide. Help us to have a strong sense of inner direction and grant that we may have the reassurance of knowing that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you. Amen.**

**Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 4)

UMH #211

*Fourth candle:*

*Leader:*

**All: O God whose spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift up our hearts, we pray, to a joyous confidence in your care. Guide us when we cannot see the way. Teach us to know that a shadow is only a shadow, because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the object of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it; help us to trust it and enable us to grow in the power of love. So may our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others.**

**We ask it, in the name of Jesus Christ whose life is our light. Amen.**

**Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 5) UMH #211

**Prayers of the People** See Screen

**Lighting of Individual Candles**

**Closing Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 6, 7) UMH #211

*Leader: May the hope of the Christ Child sustain us through this darkness.*

**People: That together we may shine again. Amen.**

**Postlude**

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Pastor Jane Piehl	Pastor
Millie Frambaugh	Music Director

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*Please join us for refreshments in the Gathering Place immediately following the service.  
You are welcome to take home a Blue Christmas candle and use it to remember a loved one  
or a loss that has impacted your life this year.*

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7pm.

Join us for worship on Sunday Mornings at 10:30am

**Welcome to Sharon Center United Methodist Church!**

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we are glad you are here! Please make sure to sign the attendance pad as it is passed during the service and let us know your contact information. We welcome all to our Worship Service and our Communion Table is open to everyone. Please join us in our activities and gatherings and if you have a question, just ask, and come back again soon! At Sharon Center UMC we are committed to building relationships with Jesus Christ. For families of all ages, this is a great community to join as you grow in your relationship with God and with others.

[www.sharoncenterumc.org](http://www.sharoncenterumc.org)

**SHARON CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

December 12, 2021

Pastor Jane Piehl

JanePiehl@gmail.com

Worship Service: 10:30am

Church Office: (330) 239-1616

SharonCenterUMCSecretary@gmail.com

Church hours: Mon, Weds 11a-1p, Fri 11a-3p

