

# *Blue Christmas Virtual Service*

sponsored by Ken-Ton Churches

**December 21, 2020**

**Longest Night of the Year**



**Church of the Nativity United Church of Christ**  
**1530 Colvin Boulevard, Buffalo, NY 14223**

## *God Draws Near*

### **Music for Meditation**

*Mike Copps, Music Director, Nativity United Church of Christ*

### **Welcome**

*Rev. Dr. Ruth Snyder, Nativity UCC*

### **Call to Worship (L:Leader; P:People)**

*Ruth Snyder*

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

**P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
full of grace and truth.**

L: In him was life, and that life was the light of all.

**P: The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has never been able to extinguish it.**

### **Music Video**

*“Shelter Me”*

Music - Father Michael Joncas; Piano – Mike Copps,  
Vocalists – Jeannine Campbell, Stephen Copps, Video - Linda Tomsen

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

The Christ candle reminds us that in life or in death, in joy or in sadness,  
Christ is present with us.

### **Opening Prayer (Responsive)**

*Carl Bauer, Nativity UCC*

L: We look for light but find darkness,  
for brightness, but we walk in gloom.  
We grope like those who have no eyes;  
we stumble at noon as in the twilight.

**P: You are the light of the world; be light in our darkness, O Christ.**

L: If I say, “Let only darkness cover me,  
and the light about me be night,”  
even the darkness is not dark to you,  
the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

**P: You are the light of the world; be light in our darkness, O Christ.**

L: Blessed be your name, O God, forever.  
You reveal deep and mysterious things;  
you are light and in you is no darkness.  
Our darkness is passing away,  
already the true light is shining.

**P: You are the light of the world; be light in our darkness, O Christ. Amen**

Carol

*Kelly Copps, Soloist*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*A time for silent reflection.*

## ***Stories of Light – Words of God’s Promises***

### **LIGHT OF CREATION**

*(Candle is lighted)*

**Reading** *Genesis 1:1-5*

*Carmille Bauer or Beth Frascatore, Nativity*

**Meditation**

**Response**

**L:** Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world.”

**P:** “Anyone who follows me will not walk in  
darkness but will have the light of life.”

Carol

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #165 vs. 1,3**

**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**

**How silently how silently  
The wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his 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**

## LIGHT OF EXODUS

*(Candle is lighted)*

**Bible Reading** *Exodus 13:17-18, 22*

*Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lawrence, St. Peter's UCC*

**Meditation**

**Response**

L: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

P: "Anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

**Carol** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #148 vs. 1,4

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
"To all the earth goodwill and peace,  
From heaven's all gracious King";  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing

## LIGHT OF THE PROPHETS

*(Candle is lighted)*

**Bible Reading** *Isaiah 60:1-3*

*Rev. Lori Keller Burns, Kenilworth UCC*

**Meditation**

## Response

L: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

**P: "Anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

## Carol

**"Away in a Manger" #149 vs. 1,3**

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay**

**Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there**

## **LIGHT OF HOPE AND NEW BIRTH**

*(Candle is lighted)*

**Bible Reading** *Luke 1:46-55*     *Deacon Bonnie LeValley, Kenmore United Methodist Church*

## Meditation

## Response

L: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

As we light Mary's candle,  
the light of hope and new birth,  
let us remember that this light  
can never be extinguished  
when we carry it in our hearts.

**P: "Anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

## **Invitation to Candle Lighting**

*(Each clergy person, representing those in their congregations, will come down the center aisle and light several votive candles.)*

Video by Linda Tomsen

*"Turn Your Eyes Open Jesus"* sung by David Baroni;

*"Perfect Peace"* sung by Laura Story

*A time for silent reflection.*

**Carol**

**“Silent Night! Holy Night!”**

**Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior is born**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth**

**Benediction**

*Ruth Snyder*

**Sending Music**

*Mike Copps*