

OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 20, 2018

Blue Christmas Worship

6:30 p.m.

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

Tonight's worship is in the style of Taize, a Christian community in France. Taize-style worship includes simple, repetitive music and periods of silence, so as to create a meditative, prayer-filled worship experience. You are welcome to remain seated during hymns and readings. Feel free to sing along, or just sit and listen.

There is a table up front with some candles, with bits of paper and also pens, with words and poems. These are available to you to use in reflecting, praying, and holding presence tonight. Throughout the service, whenever you feel comfortable, you are invited to light a candle, to hold a word or a poem, to write your own thoughts or prayers, and to leave them on the table, or take them with you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WORDS OF WELCOME

SONG *Holy Spirit, Come to Us* No. 284

PRAYER

SONG *Stay with Me* No. 204

WORDS OF SCRIPTURE Psalm 102:1-11

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to you.

²Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.

³For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread.

⁵Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my skin.

⁶I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places.

⁷I lie awake; I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.

⁸All day long my enemies taunt me; those who deride me use my name for a curse.

⁹For I eat ashes like bread, and mingle tears with my drink,

¹⁰because of your indignation and anger; for you have lifted me up and thrown me aside.

¹¹My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

SILENCE

SONG

Wait for the Lord

No. 290

LITURGY OF ACHING

One: Lord, hear my cry.

Many: **Feel my pain.**

One: Receive my anger.

Many: **Know my grief.**

One: Because I feel so very alone with this.

Many: **Come, rest here with me.**

One: I don't know how to hold on to all this suffering.

Many: **Come, share some of this tremendous weight.**

One: It's been such a long, long while.

Many: **Haven't you seen us struggling?**

One: Can't you tell I'm falling apart?

Many: **Do you feel me breaking?**

One: For, I know there is so much, and we are all so many....

Many: **And I know I'm just a tiny one in the masses,**

One: But we need you, Lord.

Many: **I need you, Lord.**

One: We need you right now.

Many: **We need your healing.**

One: We need your strength.

Many: **We need your faith.**

One: We need your love.

Many: **God, won't you please, notice....**

One: Listen...

Many: **Help...**

One: God, we trust that you are there.

Many: **Lord, we hope you are there.**

One: Please hold us, a little while longer.

Many: **Please show us, a little bit bigger.**

One: Please guide us, a whole lot more clearly.

Many: **Please heal us, a little more completely.**

One: God, we're struggling,

Many: **And suffering,**

One: And wondering,

LITURGY OF ACHING (cont'd)

Many: And wailing,
One: And needing,
Many: You. We need you.
One: Please, O Lord,
Many: Please hear our prayer.

SONG *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* No. 471

WORDS OF SCRIPTURE Luke 5:17-23

¹⁷One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; ¹⁹but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. ²⁰When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²²When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ²³Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?"

SILENCE

SONG *Within Our Darkest Night* No. 294

LITURGY OF HOPE

One: Lord, find us here.
Many: For you know us.
One: You know where we are.
Many: You know how we hurt.
One: You know how we need you,
Many: How we look to you,
One: How we search your Word,
Many: How we pray and pray and pray,
One: How we try to keep showing up,
Many: How we try to keep believing.
One: You know us.
Many: You notice us.

LITURGY OF HOPE (cont'd)

One: And so we hold on.
Many: We hold on to you.
One: We hold tight to that part of your story,
Many: That part of your song,
One: That part of our journey when we remember feeling you,
Many: That person in our past who helped us to know you,
One: That promise,
Many: The one we are taught,
One: Over and over again,
Many: That you are always with us,
One: That you will never leave us,
Many: That you are always loving us,
One: That you are there.
Many: It's our hope.
One: It's our hope in you.
Many: So, find us here in hope, O Lord.
One: Help me hold this hope in you.
Many: Help us put our hope in your coming.
One: Again and again,
Many: This advent and always,
One: You are coming,
Many: You are already here,
One: You are holding us in love.
Many: You are holding hope for us, still.
One: Now and always.
Many: Again and still.
One: Lord, we place our prayers in hope, in you.
Many: Lord, we place our hearts in hope, in you. AMEN.

SONG *In God Alone* No. 814

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

