



## **Worship Service for December 14, 2025**

### **Blue Christmas**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Margaret Stone
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Margaret Stone

LEADER: God of love, many come to you this Christmas Season weary and in pain. As the nights have grown longer, darkness has increased and wrapped itself around our precious hearts.

**ALL: In this season of long nights, we ask your healing for all who fear that sorrow may never end and for the wounds they cannot even put into words.**

LEADER: We are weary from the journey, and have found restlessness instead of rest.

**ALL: We come to you seeking rest, peace, and community. In your tender love, we offer our prayers as we trust in You. Amen.**

**\*Congregational Song**

Congregation

*“Breath of Heaven”*

Breath of Heaven, hold me together,  
be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,  
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.

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be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,  
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy,  
Breath of Heaven.

**Gathering Prayer**

Margaret Stone

**ALL: God of grace, grant us the comfort and the strength of your Holy Spirit through these days. We**

**ask that you shelter and sustain all who weep and are heavy-laden. We are one spiritual community and family that looks to you and each other with longing and imploring hearts. Be near to us this evening, as we place our trust in you. In Your love, hear our prayer.**

**Amen.**

### **Lighting the Candles**

**Pastor Felix Carrión & Margaret Stone**

**PASTOR FELIX:** We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that unite them with us in this season of expectation.

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

PASTOR FELIX: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss of relationships, trust, jobs, health, faith, and joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain in our hearts, asking that you, O God, place the gift of peace in them.

**All: We remember that through you all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and grant us your care.**

PASTOR FELIX: We light this third candle to love ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and years that have been heavy with burdens. We accept and lay before you the sting of memories, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We lay before you the times we have spent blaming ourselves.

**All: We remember that though we have journeyed far and may not perceive the light, the light itself has not failed us.**

PASTOR FELIX: We light this fourth candle to remember the gift of light and hope God offers us all year long. We remember that the Holy One does not allow for darkness to

extinguish the light. We remember to hold in our hearts promises of comfort and peace.

**All: We remember all who share our burdens and journey alongside us into all our tomorrows. God is with us. We are with each other.**

### **Biblical Witness**

Pastor Felix Carrión

*Matthew 11:28-30*

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

### **Contemporary Witness**

Margaret Stone

Eckhart Tolle on the Dark Night of the Soul  
(Adapted)

The “dark night of the soul” is a term that goes back a long time. Yes, I have also experienced it. Nothing makes sense anymore, there’s no purpose to anything. Sometimes it’s

triggered by some external event, some disaster perhaps. The death of someone close to you could trigger it. Or, you had built up your life, and given it meaning, and the meaning that you had given your life for some reason collapses.

Then there is the possibility that you emerge out of that into a transformed state of consciousness. Life has meaning again. You awaken into something deeper - a deeper sense of purpose or connectedness with a greater life. It's a kind of re-birth.

## **Reflection**

Pastor Felix Carrión

*“Jesus said, Come to Me”*

## **Special Music**

Video

*“Drawing Nearer”*

Even in the midst of all of this,  
trouble on the news, no peace within,  
still there is a light in the distance  
drawing nearer,  
drawing nearer

So open up our eyes to see your light  
open up our hearts, they're clenched so tightly  
steal in like a thief and steal our hearts  
like a baby  
like a baby  
Even in the midst of all of this...

## **Sharing Our Concerns and Prayer Petitions**

Pastor Felix Carrión

Response: "These are our concerns and petitions"

## **Unison Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**ALL: Holy One, we accept your invitation to walk with you and each other. When we are feeble, hold us with your strong arms. When we are in trouble, grant us your grace. Increase our faith when our destination seems distant. Help us to call on our family of faith. Remind us that our doubts are**

**evidence of an honest spiritual struggle. We long to know your sacred presence more fully and share it with others so we can make a difference in their lives.**

**Amen.**

**The Ritual**

Pastor Felix Carrión

*(I breathe in silent stillness and I breathe out pain and fear. Here life still beats. Here love still lives. Here life and love abide.)*

**Plymouth Offering**

Margaret Stone

**Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that Love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one  
Amen

**Offertory Prayer**

Congregation

**ALL: Holy One, we commit what we have offered to help sow seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Bless now these offerings. May they be used in the service of your divine light.**

**Amen.**

**\*Congregational Song**

Congregation

*Sing! #122 "Pray"*

Pray, pray, pray

For peace within our world.

Pray, pray, pray,

For peace within our souls.

Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:

Quiet our busy hearts.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray

For peace within our world.

Pray, pray, pray,

For peace within our souls.

Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:

Comfort our anxious hearts.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray  
For peace within our world.  
Pray, pray, pray,  
For peace within our souls.  
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:  
Nourish our hungry hearts.  
Pray, pray, pray.  
Pray, pray, pray.

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**\*Song of Parting**

Congregation

*TNCH #23 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” vs. 1*

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There’s a kindness in God’s justice,  
Which is more than liberty.  
  
There’s no place where earthly sorrows

are more felt than in God's heaven;  
There's no place where earthly sorrows  
have such kindly judgment given.

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies

### **Today's Worship Participants**

Sound: Cathy Normand  
Video: Sylvia Ortiz  
Projector: Cathy Normand  
YouTube Host: Rev. Lori Keaton

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