

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

### A Service of Comfort and Healing

December 16, 2018

#### QUIET MUSIC

#### CANDLELIGHTING

(Before the service begins please come forward to light  
A candle in the floor screens in remembrance of someone or as a  
personal prayer request)

#### WELCOME

#### MEDITATION:

"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of  
weakness but of power. They speak more eloquently than  
ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of  
overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable  
love."  
-- Washington Irving

**SOLO:** I Wonder as I Wander David Moddle

Call to Worship:

**One:** While many are looking forward to Christmas with anticipation  
and excitement ...

**All:** we gather in this place with broken hearts, to draw strength and  
comfort, from our shared sorrow and grief.

**One:** We gather to remember that in the midst of our brokenness...

**All:** the hope of the child born at Christmas, softly enters into our  
hearts, to soothe and bring comfort, to give us  
the strength and courage we need to begin again.

**CAROL:** O Little Town of Bethlehem VU64  
verses 1, 2, 3

#### CENTERING PRAYER

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:25-35

**SOLO:** Christmas Lullaby Amy Grant

**REFLECTION** Selected Poems on Grief Jennifer Ferguson

**CAROL:** A Light is Gleaming VU82

#### A TIME FOR COMMUNION AND HEALING

(During this time you are invited to come forward up the side aisle to  
receive the gift of bread and dip it in the cup,  
consume it, and return to your seat via the central aisle or  
you may continue to one of the healing stations at the  
back of the church for the laying on of hands, prayers and  
anointing of oil or simply remain in your seat)

#### REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE AND HOPE

(MEMORIAL SLIDESHOW)

#### PRAYERS, CANDLELIGHTING AND LORD'S PRAYER

#### LIGHTING OF TAPER CANDLES

**DUET:** Christmas Blessing (sung during lighting of  
candles)

**CAROL:** Silent Night, Holy Night VU67

#### BLESSING

#### POSTLUDE

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT KNOX December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**7 pm** A Contemporary Nativity Pageant with Carols, Violin & Choir

**9 pm** A Celebration of Love & Wonder with Carols, Communion & Candlelight with special guest Rheanna Slack, Violinist.

### **REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW THE SERVICE**

You are invited to a reception after the service to visit with our minister, pastoral care and healing teams and prayer chain and prayer shawl ministries.

A special thanks to our wonderful guest musicians, vocalists Lonnie and David Moddle, who joined with our wonderful Music Leader Jenny Vincent to share their healing music with us this evening.

Thanks to all of the ministries of our church who were involved in creating this Blue Christmas Service. Our gratitude is expressed to the Healing Team, the Pastoral Care Team, the Prayer Chain and the Prayer Shawl Ministry for joining together to create this healing experience for us.

#### **Our Healing Ministry**

Healing Pathways is a ministry of our congregation and sanctioned by the United Church of Canada. It is an ancient ministry initiated by Jesus whereby God's healing energy passes through the hands of the trained healers to bring spiritual, emotional, mental and physical balance to our body, mind, heart and spirit.

If you would like to experience healing touch in a full hour treatment at a later date by our trained healers, sessions are available by appointment through Knox church by calling **250-248-3927**.

#### **Healing & Pastoral Care Ministry, Prayer Shawls,**

**A Blessed Christmas Gift** – Have you noticed the beautiful prayer shawls? They were lovingly stitched by members of our congregation and blessed on a previous Sunday. We encourage you to take them home for yourself or

gift them to a friend, a family member, a care home resident, or anyone who would welcome their comfort.



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**A Service of Comfort & Healing**  
**December 16, 2018 3 pm**

**Knox united church**