

Blue Christmas
First Congregational Church of Granby
16 December 2021

The Gathering of the Community

Centering Music

Haley Hewitt

Words of Welcome

Pastor Todd

The holidays bring with them a mix of emotions: nostalgia, anxiety, anticipation, hope, joy, grief and more. Some of these emotions are more welcome at this time of year than others. We might feel pressure to act happy because it's Christmastime when inside we don't feel that way. That's not the true message of Christmas. God sent the Christ child for the very purpose of sharing our common lot with all of its circumstances and emotions pleasant and unpleasant. In becoming one of us, God accepts all of us. So bring yourself, just as you are to grieve, remember, celebrate, and cherish loved ones who have passed on and the God who embraces us all.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Sandra Fischer

God of mercy, we pray for ourselves. We pray for our dear ones. We pray for those who have passed on. We pray for our neighbors and communities. We pray for all of us, who in one way or another have been affected by this year of global pandemic. Because of the pandemic, some of us haven't had the chance to say good-bye in a way we had hoped. Our grief is complicated; our loss ambiguous. Wrap us in your boundless embrace. Heal our hearts made heavy with sorrow. Lift our spirits so that we might join the heavenly chorus singing, "Peace on earth and good will to all." Amen.

Carol

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Insert, vss. 1, 2

Advent Wreath

Deacon

This Advent we light the first candle acknowledging our grief and inviting God's consolation into our hearts.

Lights the first candle.

We light the second candle accepting our pain and inviting God's comfort.

Lights the second candle.

We light the third candle noticing our fears and remembering that God's perfect love casts out fear.

Lights the third candle.

We light the fourth candle honoring our struggle as a sign of the divine life that lives in and through us.

Lights the fourth candle.

Musical selection

Haley Hewitt

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1-12; Exod. 19-20:17

*Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710
Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.
St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.*

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

