



# Viroqua Community Blue Christmas Service

DECEMBER 22ND, 2014

PRELUDE

MUSIC BY: THOMAS PAVLECHKO

WORDS OF WELCOME

UNISON PRAYER

O God, we come to you in prayer this night:  
For all who have a song they cannot sing,  
For all who have a burden they cannot bear,  
For all who live in chains they cannot break,  
For all who wander homeless and cannot return,  
For those who are sick, and for those that tend them,  
For those who wait for loved ones, and wait in vain,  
For those that live in hunger, and for those who will not share their bread,  
For those who are misunderstood and for those who misunderstand,  
For those whose words of love are locked within their hearts and for those  
who yearn to hear those words,  
Show us the Way, O God, for we your people walk in darkness.

*Amen.*

HYMN

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

UMH No. 230

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2:8-10a

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid...”

MEDITATION ONE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

“CALM SEAS”

BY: THOMAS PAVLECHKO

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 43: 1-3a

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...

MEDITATION TWO

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

“YOU ARE MINE”

BY: DAVID HASS

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 139: 1-12

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,  
you know it altogether.

You pursue me behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is to wonderful for me;  
it is high, I cannot attain it.

Whither shall I go from your spirit?

Or whither shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.

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.

### **MEDITATION THREE**

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION** “**PASSAGES: CHRISTMAS**” BY: THOM AND RENEE

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

**SCRIPTURE READING** JOHN 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

### **MEDITATION FOUR**

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION** “**LETTING YOURSELF BE LOVED**” BY: LEW EPSTEIN

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

**AN ALTERNATIVE ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

**THE CANDLE OF SADNESS**

**THE CANDLE OF COURAGE**

**THE CANDLE OF MEMORY**

**THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

**THE CANDLE OF LOVE**

PLEASE COME FORWARD TO LIGHT A CANDLE TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE, A LOSS, OR A HOPE.

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

**HYMN** “**IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR**” UMH No. 218

### **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** MUSIC BY: DANNY JOHNSTON AND JEANNE SIMMONS

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### **PRAYER AFTER THE SERVICE**

YOU ARE WELCOME TO REMAIN IN THE CHAPEL AFTER THE SERVICE FOR ADDITIONAL QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

### **FELLOWSHIP**

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE FOR A QUIET TIME OF INFORMAL SHARING AROUND COOKIES AND PUNCH.