

Blue Christmas

a service for hope and healing



December 13, 2020



thank you to Valley View Bible Church for hosting this gathering

As you enter this time of worship and reflection, you are welcome to simply be “where you are” and know that God is with you ... right where you are. In addition, if you would like the name of loved name or the name of your loss spoken during our time of prayer, please fill out a card in the foyer. If you are watching the livestream or if you prefer not to fill out a card, send a text to 480.442.7768.

Welcome and Prayer

Reading: Psalm 13

Introduction to Lament

Song: **Our Song in the Night**

Guided Prayers of Lament/Speaking the Names

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer,

All: And in Your merciful love, answer.

Congregational Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O Come, thou key of David come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high;
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Personal Testimony of Loss and Crying out to God

Congregational Song: **Be Still My Soul**

Be still, my soul, The Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently, the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God, to order and provide
In every change, He faithful will remain
Be still, my soul, thy best thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still, my soul, the waves and wind still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last

Guided Prayer of Dependence and Hope

Hope in the Midst of Grief

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3 & Lamentations 3:19-26

Reading: Romans 5:1-5 & Romans 15:13

Invitation to Cling to the Cross/Silent Prayers of Hope

Congregational Song: **Sovereign Over Us**

There is strength within the sorrow, There is beauty in our tears
You meet us in our mourning, With a love that casts out fear
You are working in our waiting, You're sanctifying us
When beyond our understanding, You're teaching us to trust

Your plans are still to prosper, You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever, Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us

You are wisdom unimagined, Who could understand your ways
Reigning high above the heavens, Reaching down in endless grace
You're the Lifter of the lowly, Compassionate and kind
You surround and You uphold me, And your promises are my delight

Your plans are still to prosper, You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever, Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us

(repeat)

Even what the enemy means for evil
You turn it for our good, You turn it for our good and for your glory
Even in the valley You are faithful
You're working for our good, You're working for our good and for your glory

(repeat)

Your plans are still to prosper, You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever, Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us
You're faithful forever, Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us

Prayer

Please exit the sanctuary in silence and move to the courtyard where you are invited to connect with others – please continue to observe social distancing and mask wearing.

You are also invited to stay in the sanctuary if you'd like some more time to process and pray; there will also be people in the front and sides of the sanctuary to pray with you.

For resources on grief, go to www.sfsaz.org/grief.

For more info about the SFSAZ, scan this QR code with your phone:

