

Blue Christmas Service

Didsbury Knox United Church; December 15, 2021 7:00 pm



**Knox, Olds, and Carstairs-Bancroft United Churches
welcome you to this quiet service**

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

HYMN VU 374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

WORDS OF GATHERING

It takes faith beyond imagining to have come to hear this story if you are living things too difficult to be made sense of by an ancient memory of angels and wise men.

It takes faith beyond imagining to have come to hear this story when you know that it will be a greater miracle than any virgin birth for love to be born right now in our world.



The alleluias we sing today will not be to drown out the world's truths that would deny them;
but to pray they will hold us in their faith.

All:

**So we gather: the bewildered, the broken hearted, the fragile and the hopeful;
the faithful and the faithless; because all we have left when we stand in the world's
darkness is this longing for love to be born once again.**

written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on **[hold this space]**. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

HYMN VU 278 In the Quiet Curve of Evening

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40: 1-11
Matthew 11: 28-29

REFLECTION written by Cheryl Lawrie on her blog [hold this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

During the quiet time following the reflection, music will be played...and you are invited to come forward and light a candle representing your prayers, a remembrance of a loved one lost, or a hope for this season. Please draw your light from the Christ Candle, using a fresh small candle, light a tea light, then extinguish the small candle and place it in the dish...

PRAYER

God, this is the season for miracles
and we pray for one today.

Where there is sorrow,
we pray for your grace to light the darkness.

Where is despair,
we pray for your hope to light the darkness.

Where there is hatred,
we pray for your forgiveness to light the darkness.

Where there is war,
we pray for your love to light the darkness.

Where there is confusion,
we pray for your peace to light the darkness.

Where there is injustice,
we pray for your courage to light the darkness.

Where there is fear
we pray for your joy to light the darkness.

It is the season for miracles and we pray for one today:
Come, Lord Jesus, may your light come into our world.
Amen.

written by Cheryl Lawrie on her blog [hold this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

HYMN VU 82 A Light is Gleaming

BLESSING

May we be gentle with ourselves, remembering that God is with us, always. May we go into this night embracing our tears and sadness as well as our joy.

**May the protection of God comfort us,
may the courage of Jesus sustain us,
and may the tenderness of the Spirit enfold us in love,
now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN MV 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

Thank you for joining us this evening.
May this season bring you comfort, peace, and hope.

