

BLUE CHRISTMAS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

Rev. Cecilia Granadosin	Kavanaugh UMC
Pat Just	Kavanaugh UMC
Rev. Beth Ensor	Lone Oak UMC
Rev. Chris Yost	Wesley UMC
Rev. Dorothy Straks	Wesley UMC
Catherine Dierschke	Wesley UMC
Debbie George	Wesley UMC
Steve Shipp	Wesley UMC
Rev. Deana Lowe	Westview UMC

Kavanaugh UMC:
<https://www.facebook.com/kavumc.org>

Lone Oak UMC: <https://www.facebook.com/Lone-Oak-United-Methodist-Church-128293263872581/>

Wesley UMC:
<https://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCGreenville;>
<https://youtube.com/@WesleyUMCGreenville>

Westview UMC: <https://www.facebook.com/WestviewUMCGreenvilleTX>

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT WESLEY UMC

- **5:00pm - Children and Family Service**
- **5:45pm - The Living Room Contemporary Service in the Fellowship Hall**
- **7:00pm - Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary**

GIVING OPTIONS

In Person: Offering Basket or Kiosk in the Narthex

Website: <https://bit.ly/3n9aM7F>

App: Wesley UMC Greenville

Text: (903)-201-2214

Mail: PO Box 864, Greenville TX 75403



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 18, 2022

The 'Blue Christmas' service used tonight is based on an order developed and used at The Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew, Honolulu Hawaii.

PRELUDE Chris Bullok

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Chris Yost
Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by God, and without God nothing came to be. What came to be through God was life, and this life was the light of the world.

People: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

GREETING AND PRAYER Rev. Chris Yost

HYMN #196 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

PSALM 121 Rev. Cecilia Granadosin

ANTHEM Christmas Night The Wesley Vibes

ISAIAH 40:1-5; 28-31 Rev. Deana Lowe

MEMORY STARS
Following the second reading from Isaiah 40, you are invited to write on your star your concerns for others or your own concerns as the song is sung. When you are ready, please walk up and hang your star on the tree.

SOLO On Eagles' Wings Pat Just

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

LIGHTING FIRST CANDLE Rev. Beth Ensor
Leader: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

All: We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.

Sing: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SILENT REFLECTION

LIGHTING SECOND CANDLE Rev. Deana Lowe
Leader: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

All: We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future.

Sing: O come thou Wisdom from on high, who order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SILENT REFLECTION

LIGHTING THIRD CANDLE Rev. Chris Yost
Leader: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness; and in knowledge of our own mortality.

All: We remember that though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have turned away from the light, the light itself has not failed. We remember that though winter be upon us and though the night be dark, with the turning of the Wheel the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.

Sing: O come thou day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thy 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.

SILENT REFLECTION

LIGHTING FOURTH CANDLE Rev. Cecilia Granadosin
Leader: We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the stories of Hanukkah and of Christmas, which both also began in abandonment, insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable. We remember that the loving God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

All: We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.

Sing: O come desire of nations, bind in one heart and mind. From dust You brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SILENT REFLECTION

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
God of wisdom, we come to you this Christmas Season tired, in turmoil, and in pain. As the nights have grown longer, so has darkness grown and wrapped itself around our hearts. In this season of longest night, we ask your healing blessings upon all that we carry in our hearts sorrow we fear may never end, wounds we cannot even put into words. Lord, hear our prayer,

And in Your merciful love, answer.

God of mercy and compassion, there are those among us who are grieving over what might have been. Death or loss or terrible hurt has changed our experience of Christmas. We remember that once it was a special day for us, too, but someone or something precious has gone away from us in this life. We have lost a beloved, a job, a goal, a dream. We find ourselves adrift and alone. We are weary from the journey, and we have found no room at the inn. We come to you seeking rest, and peace, and shelter from the storm. Lord, hear our prayer.

And in Your merciful love, answer.

God of grace, in the spirit of the season, grant us all that we need to comfort us as we journey through this Christmas season. We ask that you shelter and sustain all those of us, both here and throughout the world, who wander or want or weep or are heavy laden, that we may be lifted up in courage and journey on in Thy peace. Lord, hear our prayer.

And in Your merciful love, answer.

God of love, in this Christmas Season we embrace and offer up to you all that used to be which is now lost to us, and cannot be again. With celebration all around us, memories of what was, and fears of what may be, weigh heavy on our hearts. Please hold us close in your embrace, be near to us this night, until the light returns and morning comes. Lord, hear our prayer,

And in Your merciful love, answer.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

HYMN #219 What Child is This

JOHN 1:1-18 Rev. Beth Ensor

PRAYER Rev. Dorothy Straks

HYMN #239 Silent Night

CONCLUDING PRAYER
Another day will come, O God. I know not what it may bring forth, but make me ready, God, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, help me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of thy Peace. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Chris Bullok