

Blue Christmas



St Paul's, Ashgrove
5pm, December 10

Time for quiet reflection, to acknowledge all that is not OK in the world and in our experience, and to pray together for peace and healing wherever they are needed.

Choir and Organ: *Send us Your Spirit.* Schutte

Welcome

A Reading from Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly, and cry that they have done their time,
And all is forgiven.

³ A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field....

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but God's declaration of restoration and hope will stand for ever.

⁹ Get right up to the top of a high mountain,

You who announce good tidings;

Speak up, you herald of good tidings,

Speak up, don't be afraid;

say to all who long for peace,

'Here is your God!'...

¹¹ Your Shepherd will feed you;

and will carry those who are vulnerable,

with tenderness and compassion,

and gently lead the mothers with their babies.

Brief Reflection

Time to Reflect

Consider those areas of your life, and of the world, where you long to see and experience peace. Name these in one or two words on the small squares of paper and attach them to the dove of peace, then bring your dove to the front to express your longing for peace.

You are also welcome to light a candle, asking God to bring light to a dark place. If you would like a blessing, and perhaps to be anointed with oil for healing, Rev Margaret will be available. Take all the time you need. The musicians will play until everyone is ready.

Choir and Organ: *As the Deer Pants for the Water*, Nystrom

Prayer

Let us pray for peace:

...

Let there be peace on Earth
And in our lives
And hope in every heart.

Jesus gave us words to bring to God in prayer when life is hard:
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Solo: *O Holy Night*, Performed by Lucy Lane

Choir and Organ: *Angel's Lullaby*, Gallina

Stay as long as you like, then leave when you are ready.

Take some doves with you to help you spread peace among your family, friends and neighbours.

You are always welcome here:

Christmas Eve	6pm and 10:30pm
Christmas Day	8:30am
Sundays until end of January and 3 rd Sunday each month	8:30am
Other Sundays from Feb 2024	7:30am and 9am

Rev Margaret is posting a prayer for peace on each day of Advent. You can receive them by email when you subscribe here:
revdrmargaretwesley.substack.com/about or use the QR code. You will only be asked for your email address, and this will not be used for any other purpose.

