

## A Christmas Blessing

May this season make room for your truth.  
Not only the version that sparkles,  
but also the one that shows up quietly and stays.

May you know that grief and faith  
can share the same space.  
That longing does not disqualify you from joy.  
That tears do not mean God is distant.

May the light of Christ find you  
not by overcoming the darkness,  
but by meeting you within it  
- steady, patient, and kind.

And may you rest in this promise:  
you are not alone,  
you are not forgotten,  
and you are deeply held;  
now, and through every night to come.

Amen.



December 22, 2025  
6:00pm

First Christian Church



fccpeoria.org  
socials: @FCCPeoriaIL

# Blue Christmas Service

## Lighting of the Advent Candles #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs 1

Welcome

Call to Worship

*One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the hope of Christ's coming, we come together to share our grief.*

**Many: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.**

*One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the peace that Christ brings, we come together to acknowledge our pain.*

**Many: All who receive Christ are given the power to become children of God.**

*One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the joy of Christ's coming, we come together to name our fears.*

**Many: What has come into being through Christ's life, and that life is the light of all people.**

*One: In the midst of this season when we celebrate the love that Christ brings, we come together to be upheld in our turmoils.*

**Many: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.**

*One: Let us worship Emmanuel, God with us, in the midst of all the celebration and sorrow of this season.*

Opening Prayer

*One: Let us pray together...*

**All: God of love and comfort, who promises us an end to all mourning, crying, and pain, be present with us now as we bring our struggles before you. As you became flesh, experiencing all the grief and joy of being human, living and dying among us in this troubled world, send now your Holy Spirit, our Comforter, to hold us in your love as we acknowledge all the complex emotions that this season brings. With the lighting of these candles, may the light of your presence shine among us and warm the bleak midwinter of our hearts. O come, Emmanuel, and fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Amen.**

### The First Candle - Grief

Scripture - John 11:32-33

Reflection

Silent Meditation

Hymn - #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs 2

### The Second Candle - Pain

Scripture - Matthew 11:28-29

Reflection

Silent Meditation

Hymn - #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs 3

### The Third Candle - Fear

Scripture - Psalm 27:1-3

Reflection

Silent Meditation

Hymn - #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs 4

### The Fourth Candle - Turmoil

Scripture - Revelation 21:1-5

Reflection

Silent Meditation

Hymn - #119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs 5

Pastoral Prayer

The Sacrament of Anointing

*The anointing oil being used tonight is frankincense essential oil. The same fragrance Jesus' gift from the Magi would have had. Of course, your participation in this ritual is voluntary. Yet, be encouraged to participate in this ritual which was common in the days of Christ.*

Doxology - to the tune of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee of Israel!

Benediction