

Gathering

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: 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.
All: **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we come as we are, bringing our hearts and all that we carry, looking for your light and hope. Meet us in our darkness and give us freedom to struggle together as we seek your presence. In this safe space, we trust that you will meet us, offering comfort in our pain and clarity in our confusion. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. Amen.

Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH 221

Psalm 22

One: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, so far from the words of my groaning?
All: **O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**
One: In you, our ancestors trusted. They trusted you and you delivered them.
All: **It was you who brought me from the womb, you who kept me safe on my mother’s breast. Since my mother bore me, you have been my God.**
One: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
All: **God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted. God does not hide from me. When I cry to God, God hears me. Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH 211

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.
⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Litany of Remembrance

Invitation to Light Candles Praise You in this Storm

Casting Crowns

Reflection

Pastor Sam

Blessing and Benediction

**Emory United Methodist Church
Blue Christmas Service**

