

# Blue Christmas, 13th December 2015

## Brunswick UC



### Prayers & Candle Lighting

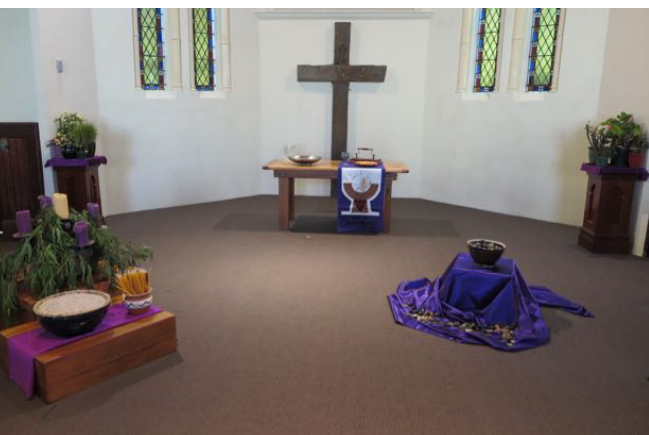
We light this first Advent candle for hope:  
the hope that things can be different,  
that justice will prevail,  
that the gentle breath of healing will be felt  
that from the loss and grief felt this year  
new life will emerge and take root  
so that, even in the darkness of life,  
the steady glowing light of God's hope can be seen.  
*First candle is lit.* Sing: Kindle a flame ...



We light this second Advent candle for peace:  
for peace that is deep and lasting,  
seeping in to everything we do,  
changing our perception,  
calming our fear,  
speaking into the deepest heart of our grief  
so that, even in the darkness of life,  
the clear burning light of God's peace can be felt.  
*Second candle is lit.* Sing: Kindle a flame ...



We light this third Advent candle for joy:  
joy that ripples right to our toes,  
a joy that bubbles up from the depths  
lifting our spirits,  
sending us soaring,  
leaving us reeling and breathless;  
so that, even in the darkness of life  
the incandescent light of God's joy can be lived.  
*Third candle is lit.* Sing: Kindle a flame ...



We light this fourth Advent candle for love:  
the love that came in the form of a baby  
born in poverty and seen as a threat to political stability  
love grounded in the reality of a harsh and brutal life,  
fighting for survival,  
making all the difference  
so that, even in the darkness of life  
the warm strong light of God's love can be known.  
*Fourth candle is lit.* Sing: Kindle a flame ...

And with these gifts  
of hope and peace and joy and love,  
God fills us to the brim  
so that we can overflow  
into the world around us,  
being Christ to each other,  
seeing Christ in each other  
and serving even the least of these.

## Reflection – Moments

Sometimes there are moments when the world seems to stand still.  
Moments that last forever, endlessly repeating like a stuck record.  
*Moments in which God's heart breaks, Jesus weeps  
and the Holy Spirit caresses our hearts with the breath of love.*

Moments when innocent people go to work or play and never come home  
struck down by gunfire, unleashed by damaged angry people.  
*In moments like these God is present showering the world with compassion.*

Moments when planes are shot down with many lives are lost  
and families and nations grieve, struggling to respond with dignity.  
*In moments like these Jesus is present walking alongside the shattered.*

Moments when despair overwhelms causing people to leave their homes  
determined to make a new life and find only rejection and despair  
*In moments like these the Holy Spirit is present singing of freedom and life.*

Moments when disaster strikes in flood, fire, earthquake, famine  
with lives and livelihoods lost, the landscape of life no longer familiar.  
*In moments like these God is present blessing the world with hope.*

Moments when women and children are abused and killed  
caught in the heartbreaking spiral of domestic violence.  
*In moments like these Jesus is present walking alongside the broken.*

Moments when a dearly loved family member dies leaving behind  
wife, husband, father, mother, daughter, son, brother, sister  
*In moments like these the Holy Spirit is present singing our memories.*

Moments when the doctor speaks words of truth and despair  
that break your heart and thrust you into a world of uncertainty.  
*In moments like these God is present arms open wide with love.*

Moments when mental illness, addiction, disability, poverty, unemployment  
come to define a person, robbing them of their essential humanity.  
*In moments like these Jesus is present walking alongside the hidden ones.*

Moments when the cares and responsibilities of the everyday  
strip away the capacity for hope, the possibility of joy, the space for love.  
*In moments like these the Holy Spirit is present singing of wonder and delight.*

As we recall moments like these God open our ears, our eyes, our hearts  
to hear the angel of the Lord speaking into the darkness  
*"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the  
people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah,  
the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of  
cloth and lying in a manger."*

Luke 2:10a

We light this candle for the birth of our Saviour  
a reminder that in the darkness of life  
the light of Christ shines, showing us the way  
the way to live in hope, to seek peace, to respond with joy  
and to rest in the unfathomable love of God.



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Offered by Ian Ferguson and Saide Cameron  
Inspired by 'Waiting', p 147, Candles & Conifers