

## Blue Christmas, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### Prayers & Candle Lighting

[Including material from Spill the Beans Blue Christmas liturgy 2015]

We light the first Advent Candle in the journey place,  
remembering the journey we have taken this year  
and praying for Christmas hope:  
the hope that things can be different,  
that justice will prevail,  
that the gentle breath of healing will be felt  
that from loss and grief new life will emerge and take root.



We light the second Advent candle in the birthing place  
praying for the birth of Christmas peace in our lives and our world:  
peace that is deep and lasting,  
seeping in to everything we do,  
changing our perception,  
calming our fear,  
speaking into the deepest heart of grief.



We light the third Advent candle in the place of gift,  
praying for the gift of Christmas joy:  
joy that bubbles up from the depths  
lifting our spirits,  
sending us singing and soaring,  
leaving us reeling and breathless.



We light the fourth Advent candle in the cradling place,  
praying for the embrace of 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.



## Reflection – When the Word was Dark,

Cloth for the Cradle p 92

When the world was dark  
and the city was quiet,  
you came.

You crept in beside us.

And no one knew.  
Only the few  
who dared to believe  
that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Holy One?

Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world;  
not the friendly darkness  
as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,  
but the fearful darkness,  
in which people have stopped believing  
that war will end  
or that food will come  
or that a government will change  
or that the Church cares?

Will you come into that darkness  
and do something different  
to save your people from death and despair?

Will you come into the quietness of this city,  
not the friendly quietness  
as when lovers hold hands,  
but the fearful silence when  
the phone has not rung,  
the letter has not come,  
the friendly voice no longer speaks,  
the doctor's face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness,  
and do something different,  
not to distract, but to embrace your people?

And will you come into the dark corners  
and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden  
or want to be,  
but because the fullness of our lives long for  
depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you  
as you were to us  
when you came,  
wearing no more than nappies,  
and trusting human hands  
to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives,  
if we open them to you  
and do something different?

When the world was dark  
and the city was quiet  
you came.

You crept in beside us.

Do the same this Christmas, Holy One.  
Do the same this Christmas.



## Lighting the Christ Candle

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.

