

Leader: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us, and we are not alone.

All: Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING OVER THE OIL

Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder

O God, the giver of health and salvation, we give thanks to you for the gift of oil. As your holy apostles anointed many who were sick of body and spirit, so pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on this gift, that those who in faith and repentance receive this anointing may be made whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TIME OF ANOINTING

Those who wish to be anointed with oil are invited to come forward. You may briefly state your prayer request. The sign of the cross will then be made on your forehead with oil. The words spoken will be, "I anoint you with the oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Your response is "Amen." After anointing you are invited to light a blue candle and either kneel at the altar or return to your seat for a time of silent prayer.

PRAYER AFTER ANOINTING

Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder

Almighty God, we pray that our brothers and sisters may be comforted in their suffering and made whole. When they feel afraid, give them courage; when they feel afflicted, afford them patience; when they are lost, offer them hope; when they are alone, move us to their side. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN FOR GOING FORTH: SILENT NIGHT

No. 239

vs. 1-3

United Methodist Hymnal

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Linda Hill, harpist

You are invited to remain in the sanctuary for as long as you want following the service. If you wish to speak privately to someone as you leave, there will be persons available in the chapel and in the bride's room.

SAN CARLOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

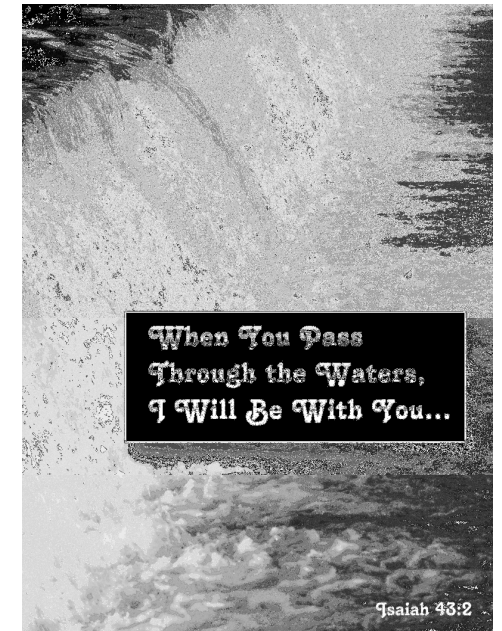
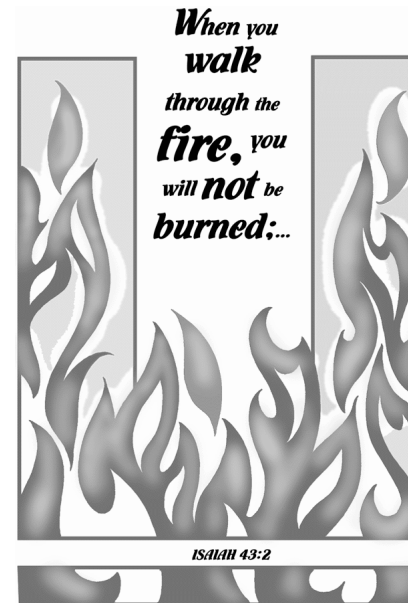
Rev. Sue Farley, Senior Minister

Rev. Brent Ross, Associate Minister

Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder, Coordinator of Mental Health Ministries

E-Mail Address: scchurch@sancarlosumc.org Church Web Page: www.SanCarlosUMC.org

Fear Not! For I Have Called You by Name...



And You are Mine.



San Carlos

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 13, 2009

5:00 pm

Welcome to Worship

Blue Christmas
5:00 pm, December 13, 2009

Christmas can be a painful time for some, It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrains on radio and television about the happiness of the season or about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost. The anguish of the death of a loved one can make us feel alone in the midst of celebrating and joy. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

There are times when life is good and beautiful, and celebration is appropriate. But there are also times of distress and loss. During those times we sing sad songs of lament, protest and complaint about the chaos and harshness that life can sometimes be for us. We often feel afraid, angry, ashamed. Putting words to this season can often be difficult. But we do this together in our relationship with God.

MEDITATION

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. For the yoke that was weighing upon them and the burden upon their shoulders, thou hast broken In pieces O God.

Isaiah 9:2, 4

PRELUDE

Linda Hill, Harpist

GREETING

Rev. Brent Ross

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brent Ross

Leader: Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." And so we invite each other to this time of peaceful worship. Tonight we come looking for the Christ child.

People: We come, bringing our hurts, our worries and our fears.

Leader: We come seeking relief from pain, anxiety, loneliness and despair. With the psalmist of the Scriptures we say,

People: "O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

All: We come tonight to rest with God.

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Brent Ross

God of Mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent Season for ourselves and our families who hold painful memories of loss, grief, separation or crippling stress. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promises. Amen.

LITANY OF REMEMBERING

Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder

Leader: This first candle we light to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their names, their faces, their voices, the memory that binds them to us in this season.

People: May God's eternal love surround them. [A moment of silence.]

Leader: This second candle we light to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace.

People: Refresh, restore, renew us O God, and lead us into your future. [A moment of silence.]

Leader: This third candle we light is to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the poignancy of reminiscing, the hugs and handshakes of family and friends, all those who stood with us. We give thanks for all the support we have known.

People: Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness. [A moment of silence.]

Leader: This fourth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope which the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God who shares our life promises has for us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

People: Let us remember the one who shows the way, who brings the truth and who bears the life. [A moment of silence.]

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:10-14
Old Testament page 731

MEDITATION

Rev. Brent Ross

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 88:1-7,13-14
Old Testament page 545

MEDITATION

Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Rev. Brent Ross

Leader: The God of strength moves within us;

People: the God of courage hears our distress.

Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us:

People: the God of healing touches us when we are broken.

Leader: When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,

People: we turn to our God, who is sustain and redeeming.

Leader: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,

People: we turn to our God, who is loving and present.