



## **Worship Service for December 15, 2024**

### **Blue Christmas**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión

LEADER: God of love, many come to you this Christmas Season weary and in pain. As the nights have grown longer, darkness has increased and wrapped itself around our precious hearts.

**ALL: In this season of long nights, we ask your healing for all who fear that sorrow may never end and for the wounds they cannot even put into words.**

LEADER: We are weary from the journey, and have found restlessness instead of restfulness.

**ALL: We come to you seeking rest, peace, and community. In your tender love, we offer our prayers as we trust in You.**

**Amen.**

**\*Congregational Song**

**Congregation**

**“Breath of Heaven”**

Breath of Heaven, hold me together,  
be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,  
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together,  
be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,  
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy,  
Breath of Heaven.

**Gathering Prayer**

**Pastor Felix Carrión**

**ALL: God of grace, grant us the comfort and the strength of your Holy Spirit through these days.**

**We ask that you shelter and sustain all, both here and throughout the world, who weep and are heavy-laden. We are one community that looks to you and each other with longing and imploring hearts. Be near to us this night, as we place our trust in you. In Your love, hear our prayer to you.**

**Amen.**

## **Lighting the Candles**

Pastor Felix Carrión

Pastor Felix: We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that unite them with us in this season of expectation.

**All: We remember them with love. May God's eternal presence surround them.**

Pastor Felix: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, trust, jobs, health, faith, and joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain in our hearts, asking that, O God, you will place the gift of peace into our wounded lives.

**All: We remember that through you all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your care.**

Pastor Felix: We light this third candle to embrace ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and years, that have been heavy with burdens. We accept and lay before you the sting of memories, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We lay before you the times we have spent blaming ourselves. We lay before you the time we have walked alone and in darkness.

**All: We remember that though we have journeyed far and may not perceive the light, the light itself has not failed us.**

Pastor Felix: We light this fourth candle to remember the gift of light and hope God offers us all year long. We remember that the Holy One does not allow for darkness to extinguish the light. We remember to hold in our hearts promises of comfort and peace.

**All: We remember all who share our burdens, show us the way to the Light, and journey alongside us into all our tomorrows.**

**Biblical Witness**

Pastor Felix Carrión

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and

you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

## **Contemporary Witness**

Pastor Felix Carrión

### Eckhart Tolle on the Dark Night of the Soul (Adapted)

The “dark night of the soul” is a term that goes back a long time. Yes, I have also experienced it. Nothing makes sense anymore, there’s no purpose to anything. Sometimes it’s triggered by some external event, some disaster perhaps. The death of someone close to you could trigger it. Or, you had built up your life, and given it meaning, and the meaning that you had given your life for some reason collapses.

Then there is the possibility that you emerge out of that into a transformed state of consciousness. Life has meaning again. You awaken into something deeper - a deeper sense of purpose or connectedness with a greater life. It’s a kind of re-birth.

## Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

“Jesus said, Come to Me”

## Special Music

Video

“Drawing Nearer”

Even in the midst of all of this,  
trouble on the news, no peace within,  
still there is a light in the distance  
drawing nearer,  
drawing nearer

So open up our eyes to see your light  
open up our hearts, they're clenched so tightly  
steal in like a thief and steal our hearts  
like a baby  
like a baby  
Even in the midst of all of this...

## Sharing Our Concerns and Prayer Petitions

Pastor Felix Carrión

Response: "These are our concerns and petitions"

### Unison Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Felix Carrión

**ALL: Holy One, we accept your invitation to walk with you and each other. When we are feeble, hold us with your strong arms. When we are in trouble, grant us your grace. Increase our faith when our destination seems distant. Help us to call on our family of faith. Remind us that our doubts are evidence of an honest spiritual struggle. We long to know your sacred presence more fully and share it with others so we can make a difference in their lives.**

**Amen.**

### The Ritual

Pastor Felix Carrión

*(I breathe in silent stillness and I breathe out pain and fear. Here life still beats. Here love still lives. Here life and love abide.)*



# Plymouth Offering

Pastor Felix Carrión

## \*Congregational Song

Congregation

Sing! #122 "Pray"

Pray, pray, pray

For peace within our world.

Pray, pray, pray,

For peace within our souls.

Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:

Quiet our busy hearts.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray

For peace within our world.

Pray, pray, pray,

For peace within our souls.

Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:

Open our aching hearts.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray

For peace within our world.

Pray, pray, pray,

For peace within our souls.

Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:

Touching our crying eternal care.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray.

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**\*Song of Parting**

TNCH #23 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" vs. 1

There's a wideness in God's mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice,

Which is more than liberty.

There's no place where earthly sorrows  
are more felt than in God's heaven;  
There's no place where earthly sorrows  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies

**Today's Worship Participants**

Sound: Mary Davis

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Tony Trosclair

YouTube Host: Rev. Lori Keaton

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