

## CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE

We are black, brown, red, yellow, white, and all the colors of God's created rainbow. We are lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, and straight. We are transgender, intersex, female, male, gender fluid. We are queer. We are questioning. We are every age. We are every ability.

We are every economic & theological location. We are YOU.

**Welcome to God's Beloved Community at Broadway.**



**BROADWAY'S MISSION STATEMENT:** "God calls Broadway United Methodist Church to be a faith community embracing the diversity of our Chicago neighborhood and larger community. We welcome all persons – celebrating the human family's God-given diversity of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental capacity. We also welcome persons of all social and economic classes and faith backgrounds. At Broadway, we are accepted into God's nurturing family, which invites us into spiritual growth through worship, study, mission, and social action. We are grateful for the opportunities God gives us to experience and share the love of Christ."



Broadway United Methodist Church

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GATHERING MUSIC "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Tim Barnes, organ

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

They say all is calm and all is bright, but our spirits toss and turn and our hearts are not glad, O Holy One. They say angels echo a joyous strain, but our thoughts are looping on what we have lost. They say a place was made in a manger for a wondrous child, but there are empty spaces in our beds, vacant chairs in our workplaces; we reach for the phone to call a familiar voice that will not answer.

Our anger points us towards what should not yet be gone. Institutions prize profit over people; illness and war break bodies and spirits; the last of a species, even now, breathes its final breath.

We rage against systems that are made for death instead of life. Our grief is love with nowhere to land. We go door to door but there is no place for it to stay. So we welcome the sun setting early, for only the longest night can tend to this sorrow; only the bluest hues can meet us in this ache.

Help us to trust in your love, O Holy one. In this season of anticipation, help us with moments of a little peace, just as certainly as we expect the waves of grief, and that it is right and good to feel all of it. Be with us. Come to us. Live in us, Emmanuel, God with Us. **Amen.**

HYMN OF LONGING "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

United Methodist Hymnal # 230 vs. 1

*Bold type indicates congregational response.*

A LITANY FOR LOSSES

LOSS OF LIFE

We mourn the loss of life.

**We mourn the loss of life.**

We honor and remember these beloveds.

**We honor and remember these beloveds.**

We pray for comfort and peace.

**We pray for comfort and peace.**

Amen. **Amen.**

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD

We mourn the loss of livelihood.

**We mourn the loss of livelihood.**

We honor and remember the dreams now deferred.

**We honor and remember the dreams now deferred.**

We pray for sustenance and resilience.

**We pray for sustenance and resilience.**

Amen. **Amen.**



LOSS OF LOVE

We mourn a loss of love.

**We mourn a loss of love.**

We honor and remember the good moments and seek healing for the pain.

**We honor and remember the good moments and seek healing for the pain.**

We pray for compassion and change in our divided communities.

**We pray for compassion and change in our divided communities.**

Amen. **Amen.**

LOSS OF LIVELINESS

We mourn this loss of liveliness.

**We mourn this loss of liveliness.**

We honor and remember that each person is precious and whole.

**We honor and remember that each person is precious and whole.**

We pray for recovery and renewed vigor.

**We pray for recovery and renewed vigor.**

Amen. **Amen.**

MORE LIGHT

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of wisdom, ...

Lord, hear our prayer, **And in Your merciful love, answer.**

God of mercy and compassion, ...

Lord, hear our prayer. **And in Your merciful love, answer.**

God of grace, ...

Lord, hear our prayer. **And in Your merciful love, answer.**

God of love, ...

Lord, hear our prayer, **And in Your merciful love, answer.**

Keep watch, O Holy One, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick; give rest to the weary, soothe the suffering, the afflicted; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

RITUAL OF HOPE

SENDING FORTH

Beloveds, may God bless and keep each one of us;

May God be gracious unto us; and

May God bring peace to the hearts and minds of all, both now and forever more, and especially to those who struggle today.

**Amen.**

*[You are welcome to stay as long as you need.]*

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*Liturgy adapted from worshipdesignstudio.com.*

**You are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve service  
this Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm**

either in person or via the Zoom link which you can find on our events page:

<https://broadwaychurchchicago.com/events/>