

Blue Christmas Service
In the Palm of God's Hand

A service of hope for those facing a difficult Christmas

Name of church

Date

(optional)



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Opening Responses

Reader We light the first light on our Advent wreath.

**All A light to represent hope –
a single flame that prevents the darkness from overwhelming us –
even when loss makes our life seem empty of light.**

Reader We light the second light on our Advent wreath

**All A light to represent love –
that though sorrow shared is not sorrow halved –
sorrow shared brings us solidarity with our sisters and brothers.**

Reader We light the third light on our Advent wreath

**All A light to represent joy –
because our lives did have joy
and though it feels lost to us now,
God has promised that one day it will last forever.**

Reader We light our fourth candle

**All A light to represent peace –
the peace of heart and mind we long for
and which we hope to find tonight
in the presence of God
and the companionship of one another.**

Scripture Reading

Your name is written on the palm of God's hand

Hymn

Short reflection / homily

God also showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand. It seemed to me as round as a ball. I gazed at it and thought, 'What can this be?' The answer came thus, 'It is everything that is made.' I marvelled how this could be, for it was so small it seemed it might fall suddenly into nothingness. Then I heard the answer, 'It lasts, and ever shall last, because God loves it. All things have their being in this way by the grace of God.'

Revelations of Divine Love, Julian of Norwich

Intercessions

Closing Responses

Reader God of mercy and compassion,
we have come to you in our sorrow – our fear – our brokenness
and heard words of comfort and sensed your love and consolation.
As we prepare to return to our homes
and the situations we are struggling with,
we ask your blessing on us and those we love.

All The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Reader And in any times of difficulty that lie ahead,
may we remember that we are held forever in the palm of your hand.

All Amen

Closing Song