

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD IN PRAYER**      Rev. Brent Ross

**COMMUNION**      No. 14  
*United Methodist Hymnal*

**TIME OF SILENCE**

**LITANY OF AFFIRMATION**

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 sustaining and redeeming.**

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

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

Leader: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,

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

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      Carolyn Worster, harpist



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San Carlos United Methodist Church

*As disciples of Jesus Christ,  
we delight in our commitment to further  
His love and teachings in our world.*

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 14, 2008

4:00 pm

[Large print Bibles, United Methodist Hymnals, visitor information packets and assisted hearing devices are available from the ushers.]

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**SAN CARLOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Rev. Sue Farley, Senior Minister

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## Order of Worship

### 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

Carolyn Worster, harpist

### GREETING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

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.  
Flee for a while from your tasks

**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, give heed to my cry, for I am low."**

**All: We come tonight to rest in God.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**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 these things in the name of the 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 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

Psalm 88

### MESSAGE

Rev. Brent Ross