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Church service tonight aims to comfort those feeling blue at Christmas

By MICKEY POWELL The Winchester Star
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MILLWOOD — Christmas is not a joyous holiday for some people, even ones who are Christians and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

There are people who are suffering from a major illness and don't know how much longer they will live. There are people who are unemployed and lack the money to prepare a holiday meal, let alone buy gifts for loved ones. There also are people who have lost relatives and friends with whom they spent past Christmases, and they are grief-stricken and depressed because the holiday no longer feels the same to them.

At 7 p.m. today, Christ Church at 809 Bishop Meade Road in Millwood is holding a special "Blue Christmas" service for anyone who needs comforting this holiday season.

"This liturgy is designed to speak directly to those who are struggling in the weeks leading up to Christmas and to provide acknowledgement of their difficulties and a supportive and loving reminder that they have not been forgotten by God," said the church's priest-in-charge, the Rev. Matt Rhodes.

But anyone who feels the need for a brief time of rest and reflection during the holiday season is welcome, he said.

The service will consist of prayers, a brief homily and times of silence to allow those attending to privately express their sorrows, challenges and other feelings to God in a safe, supportive and peaceful environment, Rhodes said.

People are invited to "come as they are," he said. They can fully participate in prayers and other activities, participate at points in which they desire or just sit in silence, he said.

“Regardless of how they choose to participate,” Rhodes said, “I want everyone to know that they are most welcome at Christ Church and, above all else, they are loved.”

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