

## Prayer Vigil on December 17, 2012

---

### Order of Service:

#### Welcome and Introduction

#### Opening Prayer

#### Litany for a Great Tragedy:

(written by Rev. David Hicks)

Leader: Lord, we come to you stunned, shocked, grieving ... our hearts linked to those for whom this tragedy shall veil their hearts for a long time to come.

**People: Lord, come to comfort us, and come to offer healing and hope to those whose spirits are wounded by the sudden death of ones they love.**

Leader: Father, where can we turn when the senselessness of hatred and violence rips apart our complacency, save to you? Where is our peace, save in your arms of mercy?

**People: Lord, we cry, Abba, Father! Comfort these your children, you who lost your only child. Embrace the ones among us for whom grief is so raw and fresh today.**

Leader: We confess our sin, the violence that lurks in us all. We call it anger, hatred, revenge ... whatever its name, it is a compelling power within us.

**People: Lord, pull the root of bitterness, the whirlwind of anger, the deadened heart of hatred out of us and restore to us a heart of flesh.**

**Refill us with your peace. Let your love be a lamp to light the way that leads us home.**

Leader: When all else is stripped away, when all that the world offers us for meaning and purpose is removed, still you, your word, your will, your grace, your holy presence will remain.

**ALL: Lord, we place our trust in you. We find our comfort in you. We find meaning that defeats random and chaotic violence in you. For you will wipe away every tear from our eyes and the eyes of our sisters and brothers, and we will be your people, and you will be our God.**

**In the power of the Resurrection, we pray. Amen.**

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (See Back)

#### Hanukkah Story

#### Lighting the candles of life loss & Spreading the Light

#### Time of Sharing

#### Scripture Reading - John 1:1-5

#### Blessing

***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***

**Vs. 1-3, 6**

**United Methodist Hymnal #211**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and night'  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, though Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thy justice here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.