

Red Bridge 2008 "Blue" Christmas Service

You who feel as parched land, will yet be glad. You in the wilderness will rejoice, even blossom. Like the crocus, you will again burst into bloom, rejoice greatly, and shout for joy. Isaiah 35:1-2

Christmas means the season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace and the Great Anticipation and Celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. For many of us it is also a depressing season, a difficult season. The reasons may vary:

- Relocation because of natural disasters*
- Loss or separation due to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars*
- Seasonal Affective Disorder or S.A.D.
(depression from shorter winter days.)*
- Unemployment*
- Financial debts and the pressure to spend more than we can afford*
- The death of a loved one since last Christmas or at Christmastime*
- Being unable to be with family and/or friends during the holidays*
- Stress from added responsibilities and having even less time for ourselves than usual*
- A miscarriage, infertility, or an unwanted pregnancy*
- Being new in the community and not being invited to holiday festivities*
- Nostalgic memories of Christmas events that cannot be repeated*
- Painful childhood memories of Christmas*
- Divorce or break-up of an intimate relationship*
- Family gatherings with "difficult" relatives or in-laws*
- Health problems*
- Alcoholism or drug addiction*

Therefore, some may wonder why even try to celebrate. For that reason the Red Bridge Clergy will have a "Blue" Christmas Service on Monday, December 22, at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 100 West Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO. (Located on the NW corner of Red Bridge and Wornall Roads just one mile south of I-435 and the Wornall Rd. exit.)

Drag yourself out, or someone else out, if you must, so together we can share prayers, Scripture, music, and time together acknowledging that God and God's Word does have the hope we seek.

Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it), is welcome.

This short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

So invite yourself, invite a friend who's struggling....