

## **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Services 2018 East Bay**

A **Longest Night Service** or Service of the Longest Night, sometimes also known as a **Blue Christmas Service or Service of Light**,<sup>[1]</sup> held on or around the eve of the [winter solstice](#) (around December 21) in the [Northern Hemisphere](#), is a modern Christian religious service designed to temper the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.

Brightly wrapped packages, Christmas trees, holiday parties, holly & the scent of pine, unending upbeat carols in shops and malls, visits from friends & family. baking & cooking, food everywhere~~these are the images & memories of Christmas many of us celebrate & treasure. However, each year some people~~the grieving, the lonely, the hopeless~~dread the approach of the holiday season. They have no heart for the cheer & the bustle, the anticipation & the excitement. Across the country congregations recognize the struggles grieving people often face during the holidays. In the weeks before Christmas they focus ministry efforts on special worship services that speak to the needs of the downhearted.

### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Blue Christmas service-Benicia**

<http://www.stpaulsbenicia.org/calendar/>

Thursday December 21 - 7PM

120 East J Street

Benicia, CA 94510

(707) 745-0307

### **Niles Discovery Church**

<https://www.nilesdiscoverychurch.org/ndc.php?page=Calendar>

Thursday December 21 - 7:30 - 9:00 PM

36600 Niles Blvd

Fremont, CA 94536

(510) 797-0895

### **Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church**

<http://www.hrlc-newark.org/>

December 21 – 7PM

35660 Cedar Blvd

Newark, California 94560

(510) 793-191

### **Blue Christmas Service — Oakland Diocese**

<https://www.ctlcathedral.org/calendar/masses/blue-christmas-prayer-service>

Dec 21, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

The Cathedral of Christ the Light

2121 Harrison St., Oakland

(510) 832-5057