



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hillsdale College Hosts Annual Blue Christmas Service

The service seeks to support those struggling during the holiday season.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Hillsdale College hosted its annual Blue Christmas service in Christ Chapel on Dec. 9 to comfort those struggling during the holiday season. A collaboration between the Chaplain's Office and the Health and Wellness Center, the service was open to the entire community.

"Shorter daylight hours, empty seats at family gatherings, and the pressure to be merry and bright can cause those experiencing sorrow during the holidays to feel depressed and isolated," said Brock Lutz, director of Health Services. "This service is an opportunity for us to comfort and pray for those struggling this Christmas season. We want them to know that they are not alone."

Lutz and Chaplain Adam Rick created the event in 2016 to support those who have a difficult time celebrating during the holidays. The service includes Scripture readings, a homily, prayer for those struggling, a time of personal prayer and reflection, and brief counseling. Attendees also light candles, inviting the light of Christ into areas of grief.

"This service gives people permission and space to grieve during the Christmas season," Rick said. "Jesus himself experienced grief and betrayal, and he came to earth to bear our sorrows. He does not want us to hide our struggles from him. He wants to meet us where we are."

For photos of Christ Chapel, click [here](#). For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, Imprimis, with a circulation of more than 6.6 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

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