## 2025 Blue Christmas Message Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia

Grace and peace to you this Christmas.

If your heart is heavy this year, I want you to know you are not alone.

2025 has brought a lot of joy and deep sorrow. Young lives lost, families grieving, burdens carried in silence – for many, Christmas doesn't feel merry.

Yet the good news is that God comes not only in our celebration, but also in our pain. In the dark of the night, a child was born bringing light into the world. Emmanuel, the God with us.

So, this Christmas, light a candle. Say the names of those you miss. Offer a prayer. Reach out to those who may be doing it tough this Christmas.

And may Christ – the gentle light of every people – comfort you, hold your grief, and guide us all into the new year of hope and healing.