

A Candlelight Service of Mystery and Celebration

“The opposite of knowledge...isn't always ignorance. It can be wonder. Or mystery. Possibility. And in my life, I've found it's the things I don't know that have lifted me up and pushed me forwards, much more than the things I do know.” — Pico Iyer

We dedicate this service in loving memory of Barb Caseau, Tad Crawford, and Sarah Shepard. May their love for and work on behalf of this congregation continue to reverberate forward, like candles flickering forever in our memory.



I. ENTERING

Bell Ringing

Rocco Fiorito

Prelude

Jeremy Berlin

Welcome

Rev. Newton

**Carol Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly*

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la.

'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure, fa la la la la, la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Sing we joyous all together, fa la la la la, la la la.

Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Call to Worship *A Christmas Greeting* by Richard Gilbert

Read by Kevin Longval and Sheila Hanley

II. CENTERING

Lighting the Chalice

John Frank Fiorito

*Carol *O Come All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels; O come, let us adore him, O come,
let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

III. ORDER FROM CHAOS

Reading The words of Rev. David Bumbaugh, adapted
Read by Ursula Goodenough

*Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep the silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; The
hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels
keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy
birth! Let praises ring, from God they bring goodwill to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human
hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this worldly
din, when souls are truly humble, then the dear babe rests within.

IV. BLESSINGS ABOUND IN THE MYSTERY

Story *The Christmas Story (a UU Version)*

Rev. Janet

by Liz James of the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society

Blessing Our Youth

Remembrances

Pastoral Prayer

Reading *Mysteries, Yes* by Mary Oliver

Read by Liz Loucks

*Carol *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains. And the mountains
in reply, echoing their joyous strains. *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer? What great brightness
did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing: Come, adore on bended
knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

V. MIRACULOUS DARKNESS

Reading *The Annunciation* by Godfrey Rust

Read by Judy Crawford

***Carol** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn king; Peace on earth and mercy mild, god and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host, proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn king!

Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord; Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the favored one. Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity: Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king!

Offering

Judy Crawford

Offertory

Jeremy Berlin

Reading *Christmas, 1974* by May Sarton

Read by Christine Ferrone

***Carol** *In the Bleak Midwinter #241*

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone,
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,
cradled in a manger and a bed of hay;
in the bleak midwinter, a stable-place sufficed
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.

Once more child and mother weave their
magic spell, touching hearts with wonder
words can never tell; in the bleak midwinter,
in this world of pain, where our hearts are
open, love is born again.

Homily

Rev. Janet

VI. THE LIGHT RETURNS

Candle Lighting Ritual

Carol *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

VII. GOING FORTH

Charge to the Assembled

Read by Kate Hennigan

***Carol** *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let earth receive her King, Let every
heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and
nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ. While
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat
the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove,
The glory of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders
of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love

Benediction

Rev. Janet

Postlude

Jeremy Berlin

Reverend Janet would like to offer words of gratitude to all who helped make this evening's service one of beauty and wonder — particularly the chapel decorators, the readers, the children, and our beloved accompanist, Jeremy Berlin. And to all the members and friends who seek and find community within this beloved congregation, may your days be full of joy, your nights be full of warmth, your hearts be full of hope, and the year ahead be overflowing with wonder. Much love to you all.

*** Please rise in body or spirit**