

A Christmas Eve Service for Families
December 24, 2017, at 4 PM

Ingathering Music and Prelude Dean Malambri, pianist

Opening Words The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

Responsive Affirmation & Chalice-Lighting

The blessings of Christmas are far beyond numbering;
they glow in the heart like candles, like stars.
Together we welcome these warm lights of Christmas:

Love and joy, to share with our families;
Friendship and kindness,
to share with all others;
Peace and hope for all the world;
Faith in the power of goodness and love.

Together we welcome these warm lights of Christmas:

Let them shine in our hearts
and our homes and our lives.

Christmas Eve, part 1: In the Great Wild Forest

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 ever lasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

Christmas Eve, part 2: The Stars Hear About Christmas

Carol "Deck the Halls"

**Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Tis the season to be jolly
Don we now our gay apparel
Troll the ancient yule-tide carol**

**See the blazing Yule before us
Strike the harp and join the chorus
Follow me in merry measure
While I tell of Yuletide treasure**

**Fast away the old year passes
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
Sing we joyous all together
Heedless of the wind and weather**

Christmas Eve, part 3: A Special Star

Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and adore 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 heav'n 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!**

Christmas Eve, part 4: Back in the Great Wild Forest . . .

Introduction to Our Christmas Eve Offering
for the Humanitarian Service Project for Seniors
and our UUSG Make a Difference (MAD) Fund

Offertory Carol “The Friendly Beasts”

**Jesus our brother, kind and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother, kind and good.**

**"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother up hill and down,
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town,
I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.**

**"I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him my hay to pillow his head,
I," said the cow, all white and red.**

**"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm.
He wore my coat on Christmas morn,
I," said the sheep with curly horn.**

**"I," said the dove from rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry.
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I,
I," said the dove from rafters high.**

**"I," said the red fox, crouching low,
"I gave him my cunning that he might know
How best through all the world to go,
I," said the red fox, crouching low.**

**And every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Immanuel,
The gift he gave Immanuel.**

The End of Our Story

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 earth! the Savior reigns!
Let us our 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 earth with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love!**

Star-giving

The First Christmas Story from the Gospel According to Luke

Sharing Our Christmas Light

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,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Child of God, Love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

Closing Words & Benediction

Postlude and the ringing of the church bell

The Carol of the Friendly Beasts is from twelfth-century France, based on the nativity story in Luke's Gospel. I added the verse about the Fox. The idea that Fox visited the Manger came from The Fox at the Manger, by P. L. Travers, © 1962 by John Lyndon Ltd. The tradition that Santa goes at sunset to be with the animals in a special place is a very old one. The story of "Tali the Christmas Star" was written by St. Louis UU Tony Fathman, © 1986. I combined the stories for our Family Christmas service in 1989. ~ Rev. Lindsay



Special thanks to our Readers, Bill Pokorny, Julie Riffle, Jeannie Scown, Melissa Auer, and Doreen Christiani, to our Pianist, Dean Malambri, and to our Greeters, the Pokorny Family (Bill, Dawn, Jack, Will, and Henry) and to all others who helped with this evening's Family Celebration.

Next Sunday, December 31, we will hold one service at 10 AM, our traditional Fire Ritual for the turning of the year. A potluck brunch follows the service. We return to our usual schedule of worship and church school at 9:30 and 11:15 AM on Sunday, January 7. We hope to see you often in the New Year!



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Our Covenant (written in 1842)

Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world, and of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement, we have associated ourselves together—not as agreeing in opinion, not as having attained universal truth in belief or perfection in character, but as seekers after truth and goodness.