

Christmas Eve 2017 Candlelight Service

Ingathering Music

Choral Greeting *Wexford Carol*, 12th century Irish, arr. by John Newell

Opening Words & Call to Worship
the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

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!**

Reading “Listening to Christmas” Alan Harris

Reading “The Nativity”
from the Gospel According to Luke

Choral Interlude *Still, Still, Still*, Austrian carol arr. by Mack Wilberg

Reading “The Vision of the Shepherds”
from the Gospel According to Luke

Reading from The Fox at the Manger P.L. Travers

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
good-will to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently
the wonder is made known,
when God imparts to human hearts
the gift that is our own.
No ear may hear that coming,
but in this worldly din,
when souls are truly humble, then
the dear babe rests within.**

Reading The New Yorker's Christmas Greeting, 1952

Reading "Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem"

Maya Angelou

Choral Interlude *This Christmastide*, Donald Fraser

Reading "The Magi"

from the Gospel According to Matthew

Reading "The Long Walk"

Rev. David Blanchard

Introduction to our Christmas Eve Offering

for the "Make a Difference" Fund of the Unitarian

Universalist Society of Geneva

and the Humanitarian Service Project for Seniors

Offertory Interlude *Sing We Now of Christmas*, French
traditional carol

Reading "Gussie's Orange" Robert Fulghum

Carol "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.**

**For, lo! the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold:
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.**

Reading “Be Glad at That Star!” Clarke Dewey Wells

Reading “Star Giving” Ann Weems

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!**

Reading from For the Time Being W.H. Auden

Readings “from spiraling ecstatically this” & “!hope!”
E.E. Cummings

Choral Response *Gloria*, Antonio Vivaldi

THE SHARING OF THE 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,
Dark is gone; all is light.
Shepherds hear the angels sing:
"Alleluia! hail to our King!
Baby Jesus is born,
Baby Jesus is born."**

**Silent night, holy night,
All rejoice at the sight:
Radiance beams from Love's holy face,
Child of God and bearer of grace:
Christ our brother is come;
Christ our brother is come.**

Closing Words & Benediction

Ringling of the Bell

Instrumental Postlude



Thank you for joining us this evening. May you have a most happy and blessed Christmas!

Thank you to our pianist, Sandra Anderson-Cordogan, to our violinists, Wendy Evans-Glazier and Mary Phillips, to our cellist, Larry Glazier, to our bassist/arranger, John Rosenkrans, to our Music Director, Tracy Rosenkrans, to our Greeters, Gail & George Tattersfield, and to all others who helped with this evening's Candlelight Service for Christmas Eve.

Special thanks to the UUSG Choir, led by Cynthia Spiegel, for sharing their beautiful music with us tonight:

Melanie Abercrombie	Julia Adams
Mark Adams	Colleen Cushing
Dave Davis	Mary Davis
Brian Doyle	Liam Doyle
Roger Gallentine	Annie Gerard
David Hanchette	Rachel Harbold
Anne Heavy	Kelly Herz
Skiaya MacPebbles	Linda O'Neill
Eric Peterson	Julie Riffle
Rhonda Robinson	Kate Rodgers
Anna Rosenkrans	Tracy Rosenkrans
Clair Ryan	Robert Savage
Parvaneh Shidnia-Smith	Nate Thomas
Meredith Vandre	Pat Vary
Marian Whittet	

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!



The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

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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.