

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols  
December 24, 2019 at 8 PM**

**Opening** *Heigh, the Holly!* by Daniel Pinkham  
**UUSG Choir**

**Welcome**

**Lighting Our Flaming Chalice**

**Opening Words**

**\*Hymn of Invocation #225** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**\*Responsive Reading # 653** “Reflections on the  
Resurgence of Joy”

**Lessons:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Micah 5:2-4

**Carol:** #246 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**Lesson:** Luke 1:26-35, 38

**Responsive Reading # 619** “Magnificat”

**Carol** *Gabriel’s Message*, Basque carol, arr. Tony Alonso  
**UUSG Choir**

**Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-21

**Carol** *Children’s Song of the Nativity*, English traditional  
**UUSG Choir**

**Carol** # 237 “The First Nowell”

**Lesson:** Luke 2:8-20

**Carol** # 231 Angels We Have Heard on High

**Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-11

**Carol** “What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!  
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant king to own Him,  
The King of kings, salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The Virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**Responsive Reading** “Let Us Be That Stable,” by P. Murfin

Today, let us be that stable,  
let us be the place  
which welcomes at last  
the weary and rejected,  
the pilgrim stranger,  
the coming life.

**Let not the frigid winds that pierce  
our inadequate walls  
nor our mildewed hay  
or the fetid leavings  
of our cattle  
shame us  
from our beckoning.**

Let our outstretched arms  
be a manger  
so the infant hope,  
swaddled in love,  
may have a place to lie.

**Let a cold beacon  
shine down upon us  
from a solstice sky  
to guide to us  
the seekers who will come.**

Let the lowly shepherd  
and all who abide  
in the fields  
of their labors  
lay down their crooks  
and come to us.

**Let the seers, sages and potentates  
of every land  
traverse the shifting dunes,  
the rushing rivers,  
the stoney crags  
to seek our rude frame.**

Let herdsmen and high lords  
kneel together  
under our thatched roof  
to lay their gifts  
before Wonder.

**Today, let us be that stable.**

**Special Holiday Offering** for the “Make a Difference” Fund  
of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva  
and the Humanitarian Service Project for Seniors (Please  
note MAD Fund/HSP in Memo Line)

**Offertory** *We Three Kings*, John H. Hopkins, arr. Jeanine  
Yeager

**Reading** “Come Christmas,” by Rev. Maureen Killoran

**Carol** # 244 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

**Reading** “Why Not a Star,” by Rev. Margaret Gooding

**Reading** “Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem,” by Dr.  
Maya Angelou.

**Communion of Light:**

*(Please stay seated until time for you to receive the Light.  
The ushers will bring the Christmas candles’ light to the  
seated congregation, from the back to the front of the  
sanctuary. As light is shared candle to candle from the end of  
the rows inward, please stand as you are able to receive the  
Communion of Light. Only tilt the unlit candles when lighting  
them. Please keep lit candles pointing up, helping others to*

*be careful. Please remain standing, as you are willing and able during “Silent Night.”)*

### **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!

*(After last verse is sung, please hum until all candles are lit.  
We will close by singing the 1<sup>st</sup> verse again).*

### **Sending Our Light Out into the World**

#### **Benediction**

**Postlude** *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, traditional, arr.  
Gerald Near

**Reception** – Common Room

*(Please help children and be careful of hot wax. Return  
candles to baskets in Common Room.)*

**Celebrants:** the Revs. Patrick Price & Jennifer Innis



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

Thank you to our accompanist, Sandra Anderson, our guitarist, Tom Zimmerman, and to our Music Director, Tracy Dullea. Thank you to our Greeters, Gail Tattersfield and David de Coriolis, 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:

Mark Adams

Colleen Cushing

Roger Gallentine

Rachel Harbold

Kelly Herz

Jake Montgomery

Julie Riffle

Kate Rodgers

Pat Vary

Tom Zimmerman

Katie Baar

Mary Davis

Dave Hanchette

Tom Haslett

Andy Montgomery

Linda O'Neill

Rhonda Robinson

Nancy Dawn Van Beest

Marian Whittet

Tonight at 11pm: "Candlelight Christmas Eve Service". A contemplative, peaceful service for adults and quiet youth. Worship led by Geoff Pynn with classical guitarist Paul Sargent.

Next Sunday, December 29, we will hold one service at 10 AM, our traditional Fire Ritual for the turning of the year, led by the Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher. 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 5. 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.