



December 20, 2020

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Today's Worship Team

In the Pulpit: Rev. Scot Hull

Worship Associate: Diane Gallentine

Musicians: Sandra Anderson, Lynn Fisher McCanne,
Irene Frederick, Dave Hanchette, Elaina Hruby, Brian Joose,
Tracey McFadden

Technical Directors: Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski, Jamie Carroll

Upcoming Services:

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 5pm

Sunday, December 27: Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Charles Earp

Come as you are.

Order of Worship

Ringing the Bell

Call to Worship

Prelude "Good King Wenceslas," arr. Dennis Alexander

Welcoming Words

Opening Hymn "Jingle Bells"

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bob tails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing
A sleighing song tonight
Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

Chalice Lighting Will Sapet

Song of Praise

Praise God, the Love we all may share;
Praise God, the Beauty everywhere;
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;
Praise God, the Truth that makes us free.

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.

Doxology

From all that dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope with love arise;
Let beauty, truth, and good be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

Passing the Peace

Joys & Sorrows

Hymn # 123 "Spirit of Life"

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

For All Ages "The Gift of Nothing," Patrick McDonell, presented
by Tom Lichtenheld

Testimonial Kathy McFadden

Offertory

For All Ages "The Shortest Day," Susan Cooper

Musical Response Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring/It Came Upon the
Midnight Clear, Bach/Willis, arr. Jay Rouse

For All Ages The "Friendly Beasts," Tomie dePaola, presented by
Meredith Vandre

Homily "Working the Holidays, or, How I Ended Up a Christmas
Elf Completely By Accident"

Closing Hymn # 235 "Deck the Halls 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 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 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 la.
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing

Benediction

Postlude “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” (please see announcements)

Community Announcements

Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts

Contact Information

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Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

(All activities meet via Zoom. Contact your group leader for links.)

Sunday, December 20

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 1:00 pm Minister Coffee

Monday, December 21

- 9:00 am Pioneer Newsletter Deadline
- 7:00 pm Bible Study for UUs

Tuesday, December 22

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, December 23

Thursday, December 24

- 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25

Saturday, December 26

Sunday, December 27

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service

The office will be closed Friday, December 24, through Sunday, January 3.
Availability of the staff will be by appointment only.

Announcements

Postlude: We Wish You a Merry Christmas; traditional, UUSG families in order of appearance: Christine, Mark, Harris & Gabby Imielski; Nancy and Mary Christensen; Kerry, Jason & Will Sapet; Linda O'Neill; David Zacker and Molly, Abby & Ben MacKay Zacker; Roger & Diane Gallentine; Gary, Jessica, Maissy & Harper Littlefield; Julia Friesen; Chung, Leo & Simon Liang; Andy, Jenny, Jake, David, Ellie & Max Montgomery; Joe Gange & Sarah, Asher and Eleanor Hoerdeman; Tom McCanne & Lynn Fisher McCanne; Steve, Emily, Sarah & Helenna Clark; Winelle Glaser; Sean, Becky, Cal & Elaina Hruby; Rhonda Robinson & David deCoriolis; Julia Jones, Scot & Zachary Hull. **Special thanks to Linda O'Neill for writing extra verses!!!**

The For All Ages books today are: "The Gift of Nothing," written and illustrated by Patrick McDonnell, published by Little, Brown for Young Readers.

"The Shortest Day," by Susan Cooper and illustrated by Carson Ellis, published by Candlewick.

"The Friendly Beasts," by Tomie dePaola, published by Random House

In today's trifecta of stories, we hear an enlightening story about giving, one of winter solstice and welcoming a new year, and finally a song many of us think of as a UUSG tradition...the story of the animals at Jesus' birth. We are grateful to Meredith Vandre for her beautiful presentation. These stories were chosen to remind us of what's important and to give everyone the gifts of song, insight, comfort and hope.

Thanks to all the publishers for their permission to share these books today. When shopping for books, please patronize our local independent bookshops: Harvey's Tales, Townhouse Books, and Anderson's Bookshop. If you prefer to shop online, Bookshop.org allows your purchase to support the independent bookshop of your choice.

For UUs who simply want to learn more about the history of the Bible as literature, as well as early Christianity, "Bible Study for UUs" is on the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30pm. Our next meeting will be on December 21. We'll be discussing the movie "[The Last Temptation of Christ](#)." Also, I mention "[Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal](#)" a lot. We'll meet using Zoom. For more info, please contact Jim Frazier biblestudy@uusg.org.

Please join us Thursday, Dec. 24, at 5pm for our annual Christmas Eve service. As with all of 2020, this service will be a little different. For starters, we will all unite at the same hour, via zoom. In our time together, we will hear a variety of readings from our members, each exploring a part of the story of Christmas. And who among us isn't drawn to UUSG for the amazing music? You won't want to miss the musical treasures in store. You are welcome to sing along or simply listen and enjoy beautiful presentations of traditional carols. UUSG's talented choir has teamed up with former member Susan Conant's choir in South Carolina to create a spectacular recording of "Silent Night" to conclude our time together. We invite all to have a candle ready so we may share what promises to be an enchanting holiday memory. We look forward to celebrating with you!

For All Ages Opportunity Are you interested in an opportunity to read a "For All Ages" story during a Zoom Sunday service? Please let the newly formed "For All Ages Team" of Rhonda Robinson, Tom Lichtenheld and Becky Hruby know! Whether you want to read alone or with a loved one, there will be stories to tell. Please let us know if you would like your name on the list of potential readers. There will be many opportunities throughout the year. Also note whether you prefer a solo gig or have other voices in your home that would like to join you. Please contact Becky Hruby at DRE@uusg.org.

One Book One UUSG. During this difficult isolating time, let's connect with each other through literacy. The WOW Team is hosting a virtual book discussion group that will meet on **Wednesday, January 13, at 7pm.** We will be discussing the book "The Humans" by Matt Haig. All are welcome. Copies of the book are available or can be requested at your local library for check-out. We also encourage you to try [Alibris](#) or [BetterWorldBooks](#) or your favorite used book site for purchase of this novel. Of course, it would also be lovely to support Harvey's Tales or Town House Books, our local bookstores, with your purchase. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 22,** if you plan to join us so we may plan for our January Zoom meeting. You may email Glenda (peckrglenda@gmail.com) or Carol (carollmyers49@gmail.com) with your RSVP and/or any questions you may have. The following is a brief description of the book:

"The Humans is a funny, compulsively readable novel about alien abduction, mathematics, and that most interesting subject of all: ourselves. Combine Douglas Adam's irreverent take on life, the universe, and everything with a genuinely moving love story, and you have some idea of the humor, originality, and poignancy of Matt Haig's latest novel." Goodreads

Guest-in-the-Pulpit December 27: Rev. Charley Earp is a minister living in Evanston IL and serving the Unitarian Church of Quincy IL. He is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

BYOL (Lunch) with Rev. Scot: Tuesdays at Noon Rev. Scot will be hosting an open meeting on Zoom each Tuesday at noon. **Please note – the last BYOL for 2020 will be December 22. We will skip December 29, and we will resume in 2021 on January 5.** No agenda. No requirements. Come if you can, when you can. Just bring yourself, your concerns, your questions, your stories, your jokes—and your lunch—and join him (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5832903665>. Meeting ID: 583 290 3665, Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago).

The Board of Directors has extended our current stay-at-home practice including a continuation of virtual services, group meetings and other functions until at least **January 31**.

Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy. The Board of Directors has re-visited the June 2020 Board Statement and our plans for moving forward. Please visit our website to read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future, or read it here: [Updated “Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG’s COVID-19 Reopening Strategy.”](#)

Sermons and For All Ages Stories Now on YouTube! Would you like to watch past sermons and FAA presentations and share them with friends and family? [Visit our YouTube and don't forget to subscribe!](#)

Conversations with Rev. Scot, Sundays at 1pm

Rev. Scot wants to connect with you! Join him today:

December 20: Minister Coffee

Open Forum! For those of you that think those talk-back sessions are just a tad too short, this is for you. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we'll chat!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896751773>

Electric Vehicles are for Everyone - The EV Revolution is Here. If you missed UUSG Member Tracey McFadden's presentation on electric vehicles, you can now watch it on our [YouTube page!](#)

End of Life Issues for Me or My Loved Ones Do you have questions about end-of-life issues? Want to know more about what paperwork is needed for making important decisions about your medical care? Wondering about what support is available for people nearing the end of their lives, both medical and financial? 2U has created a series of recordings with Rev. Elizabeth Harding, AM, MDiv, LCSW. Rev. Elizabeth Harding has been a member of 2U for 35 years and serves as one of their community ministers. She has worked as a hospital chaplain, hospice chaplain, and bereavement counselor for over ten years, and has graduate degrees from Meadville Lombard Theological School and the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Rev. Elizabeth Harding has created [these videos](#) that cover Advance Directives, Hospice 101, and Palliative Care 101.

Social Justice News

BOW Totals for TLS Veterans We raised \$2,060.04 for TLS Veterans in November. Thank you for your generous giving!

Call to Action: Please contact your state legislators and ask them to resist spending cuts to our core services such as education, healthcare, and human services including Mutual Ground Shelter. To see final election results and contact information for your Illinois legislators, see the Senate and House links for Election 2020 at [ballotpedia.org/Illinois General Assembly](http://ballotpedia.org/Illinois_General_Assembly) .

December Beyond Our Walls: Mutual Ground Shelter The vision of Mutual Ground Shelter in Aurora is to create a society free of domestic and sexual violence by providing education, awareness, and life-changing services that empower individuals, families, and communities to end the cycles of domestic and sexual violence in Kane and Kendall Counties. They provide counseling, advocacy, education, and shelter, as well as a 24/7 hotline. Their work is threatened by deep budget cuts from the State of Illinois. Your contribution will provide personal items needed by the individuals whom they shelter.

Calendar: January 2: Celebrate the New Year by preparing a casserole or lunches for residents of Lazarus House Homeless shelter. Sign up [here](#). Questions? Contact socialjustice@uusg.org.