

Order of Service Dec. 21, 2021 - Unitarian Universalist Church West "Embracing the Light - Healing the Soul"

GATHERING THE CIRCLE

1. **Prelude – “Bells in the High Tower”** – The Solstice Singers – Jim Fischer, Hayley German-Fisher, Colleen Gresk, Terri Kohnert, Sarah Stokes, and Ruben Piirainen, Lead Music Director
2. **Call to Worship – “Winter Solstice”** by Rebecca Parker – Kathy Bradshaw
3. **Calling the Directions and Lighting the Chalice:** Rev. Suzelle Lynch, David and Sarah Stokes, and Ruben Piirainen (*Verses will be sung, then please join in speaking each in unison – words are on other side*)
4. **Welcome to UUCW & Winter Solstice** – Eddee Daniel and Maria Varela
5. **Solstice Meanings:** Kathy Bradshaw and Marilyn Kupka

INTO THE DARKNESS

6. **Special Music – “The Dark” by Mary Grigolia** – Sung by David and Sarah Stokes
7. **Solstice Litany** – Melissa Musante and Steven White
Response: “We know light will return. In this moment we honor the healing darkness.”
8. **Meditation for Winter Solstice** – adapted from the words of the Rev. Laura Bogle – Kathy Bradshaw
9. **Special Music – “Dark of Winter”** – Solstice Singers

MOVING TOWARDS LIGHT

10. **Solstice Story: “The Winter Giant”** A Story from the Abenaki people of Quebec; adapted by Rev. Suzelle Lynch, read by Phil Chard

WE CALL THE SUN

11. **Candle Lighting and Rhythm Ritual** – Rev. Suzelle Lynch

CELEBRATING THE SUN

12. **Sun Chant** – David Stokes
*We turn again to the sun, Arise everyone!
We open our eyes to greet the day, Open our hearts to work and play
Open our lives and begin to sing of all this day will bring!*
13. **Offerings of Gratitude** – Melissa Musante

HOW TO GIVE to SUPPORT UUCW:

ONLINE: Text “UUCW” to 73256 - OR – go to uucw.org & click “Donate”

MAIL: Mail a Contribution to UU Church West – 13001 W North Ave, Brookfield, WI 53005

14. **Offertory** - performed by Ruben Piirainen
15. **Reading – “The Shortest Day”** by Susan Cooper; read by David Stokes
16. **Releasing the Circle:** Maria Varela, Melissa Musante, Eddee Daniel, Kathy Bradshaw, and Steven White
17. **Grounding the Energy** – Rev. Suzelle Lynch
18. **Postlude** – performed by Ruben Piirainen

Grounding the Energy – Spoken Chant

Ground me, ground me now - Ground my energy,
Ground us, ground us now - Ground our energy
Ground our energy, give it back!
Ground our energy, give it back!

Back to the earth where waters flow
Back to the earth where lava glows
Back to the earth where trees grow and love knows
and we go on and on in the cycle of life
On and on in the cycle of life
On and on in life, death and re-birth
Life, death and re-birth - Life, death and re-birth

Calling the Directions / Chalice Lighting

SUZELLE: Air the wind that lifts us high
Strong as breathing, wide as sky
Waking up our minds and eyes
Oh Air inspire creation's cry!
Round the circle, here we go
Air we call you, this we know
Air the wind that lifts us high
Waking up our minds and eyes

RUBEN: Fire burning 'neath our skin
Passion strong so deep within
Warming us and all our kin
Oh, Fire please help us to begin!
Round the circle, here we go
Fire we call you, this we know
Fire burning 'neath our skin
Warming us and all our kin.

SARAH: Water flowing in our veins
Ocean strong and healing rains
You bring hope to all our days
Oh Water wash our fears away
Round the circle, here we go
Calling Water, this we know
Water flowing in our veins
You bring hope to all our days.

DAVID: Earth the ground beneath our feet
Mountain strong and sandy beach
Giving life so rich and sweet
Oh Earth please guide our dancing feet
Round the circle, here we go
Earth we call you, this we know
Earth the ground beneath our feet
Giving life so rich and sweet!

SUZELLE: Center singing silently,
Strong as fate and mystery
Holding love and history
Oh, Center guide our mystic dreams
Round the circle, here we go
Calling Center, this we know
Center singing silently
Holding love and history

Worship Service Guidelines in the COVID Era

The guidelines below allow us to be together in worship and religious education during the pandemic.

1. **If you feel ill, have a fever or cough, please stay home and enjoy the livestream worship.**
2. **Wear a mask at all times** that covers both your nose and mouth. (Note: Speakers at the pulpit will unmask at times; this does not mean you can remove your mask.)
3. **No hugging or handshakes** – Elbow bumping and waves are always welcome. **Sanitize your hands regularly.**
4. **Wear a coat or warm sweater!** We will have windows open and fans on for better air exchange and circulation.
5. **Limited seating in Sanctuary.** Overflow seating will be available in the Community Room, with a big-screen TV showing the service.
6. **Candle-Lighting Station provided for sharing Joys and Concerns** – You may silently light a candle for a Joy or Concern before or after the service and fill out a Sharing Card at the table.
7. **No congregational singing – but humming behind your mask is ok.** Singing in a large group indoors is still strongly discouraged by the Association of UU Music Ministries, the professional organization for congregational music leaders, and other professional musicians' groups. We will have music from soloists and small ensembles.
8. **Vaccination Required for Sunday Volunteers**
9. **If you test positive for COVID after attending a service at UUCW** or having contact with UUCW members, please let Vicki Banville know as soon as possible. (vickib@uucw.org)