

Unitarian Universalist Church West -- Order of Service – December 24, 2022
“The More We Wonder, the More We Love” **Rev. Julie Stoneberg**

1. **Entering With Music** – “Joy to the World” - Ruben Piirainen, Lead Director of Music
2. **Opening Words** - from “Celebrating Christmas” by Ed Searl - The Rev. Julie Stoneberg
3. **Chalice Lighting** - “Take Christmas” by Christopher Raible - Jeannie Baker, Board of Trustees Vice President and Rev. Julie Stoneberg
(Please read along; if you are joining us at home, you’re invited to kindle a chalice or candle there.)
Take Christmas.
Take its courage, its hope, its joy, its peace, its goodwill.
Take Christmas—but to take it you must also add to its light.
4. **Greetings** – Jeannie Baker
5. **Caroling Together** – “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”
6. **Mary’s Story** - Kristin Busse (Luke 1:26-35, 46-50)
Musical Offering - "Christmas Lullaby" by Jason Robert Brown; performed by Allison Hull, soloist
7. **Joseph’s Story** – Rob Zimmerman (Matthew 1:18-25)
Caroling Together – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
8. **The Innkeeper’s Story** – Natalie Fleury (Luke 2: 1-7)
Caroling Together – “Jesus, Our Brother”
9. **Offering** – Rev. Julie Stoneberg
10. **Offertory Music** – “Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella” (arr. Mark Hayes); performed by Ruben Piirainen
11. **The Shepherds’ Story** – Harold and Henry Gross (Luke 2:8-20)
Musical Offering – “The Wexford Carol” - Allison Hull, soloist
12. **The Wise Person’s Story** – Lynn Kapitan (Matthew 2:1-8)
Caroling Together – “Sing We Now of Christmas”
13. **The Star’s Story** – Laurie Boddie (Matthew 2:9-11)
Caroling Together – “There’s a Star in the East”
14. **Prayer** – Rev. Julie Stoneberg
15. **Candle Lighting Ceremony** – “The Moment of Magic” by Victoria Safford
16. **Caroling Together** – “Silent Night”
17. **Closing Words and Chalice Extinguishing** - inspired the words of Lucinda Steven Duncan
18. **Postlude** – “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High / O Sanctissima” (arr. M. Hayes); performed by Ruben Piirainen

Our offering this evening supports the UUCW Ministers’ Make a Difference Fund – this fund allows our ministers to help sponsor needed projects and support members or neighbors in need. **Thank you for your generosity!**

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

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

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 all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
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Nativity Display on the Chalice Table

Thank you to UUCW Member Pam Beattie for sharing her family's Nativity display. Pam painted the figures nearly 50 years ago, beautifully representing the people living at that time.

Pam's mother, who passed away this October, used her creativity and skill to build the manger out of branches and wood using only a hand saw. We are grateful for the story of this Nativity and to Pam for sharing it with us.

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.

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.

Jesus, Our Brother

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 uphill 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 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 the 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 the rafters high.

And all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Sing We Now of Christmas

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the child is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

From the eastern country came the kings afar,
bearing gifts to Bethl'hem, guided by a star.
Sing we Noel, the child is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

There's a Star in the East

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the babe is born;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Chorus:

Leave your ewes and leave your lambs,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Leave your sheep and leave your rams,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you hark to the angel's holy word,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
(Chorus)

Silent Night, Holy 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,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Saturday, December 31, 2022
“Centering for the Year’s Turning”
The Rev. Julie Stoneberg

New Year’s Eve: 6-7 pm Family Walk
7-9 pm Adult Walk

Come into a darkened and candle-lit space to walk the labyrinth carrying your question or intention for 2023. Use this space to center yourself and find inner guidance for moving forward. Rev. Julie will be present for support and direction.

Drop by anytime. Cookies and cider will be offered.

Next Sunday, January 1, 2023 – 10 am
“Centering to Life”
The Rev. Julie Stoneberg

Visit us in person or online
at <https://uucw.org/livestream/>

Mark this time, for it is a holy moment we will not find again. As we place a capstone on the 2022 holiday season, we turn to open ourselves to the new year. In this service of word and ritual, we take time to find our center, in order to prepare ourselves for whatever comes next. ***There’ll be an opportunity to walk the labyrinth following the service.***

WELCOME TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH WEST

- **Welcome** – to a place to grow in mind, heart and spirit—a place to find companionship on your quest for truth.
- **Welcome** – to a congregation where there is a place for you—in worship, in small groups, in fun activities, in teams that act for justice, and in religious education classes for children, youth, and adults.
- **Welcome** – to this **Green Sanctuary church**—where we teach sustainability and live gently upon the sacred earth, to this **Welcoming Congregation**—where we celebrate the lives and equal rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning people, to this congregation which affirms and works to support **Black Lives Matter** and is a **Peace Advocacy Congregation**.
- **Welcome** – to a centuries-old yet ever-new faith that draws from sources as diverse as the world's religions, humanist philosophy, the teachings of science, the ancient practices of earth-centered religions—a faith historically rooted in liberal Christianity that has branched out widely into the mystery and wonder and knowledge of the world.
- **Welcome** – to a free, inclusive and reasoned faith—we're glad you're here.

Learn more about UU Church West – When you fill out a yellow Welcome Form, we will send you our weekly electronic newsletter. Or visit our website: www.uucw.org or email us at visitor@uucw.org

Welcome – We're glad you're here this evening.

For your comfort during the service:

- If you need to take a break during the service – our Community Room has comfortable chairs and a TV that broadcast the service.
- If a young child with you becomes squirmy, no worries! We welcome their movement and voices! If you'd like, there is childcare available tonight – simply ask an usher for assistance. Or feel free to make use of the activity table near the front of the sanctuary.
- Chair cushions are available from the ushers.
- Restrooms, including an all-inclusive family restroom, are located off the foyer.
- Please put your phone in Worship Mode (ringer and alerts off)

If you'd like to share a Joy or Concern, you may light a candle before or after the service by filling out a yellow Sharing Card at the table on the North Ave side of the Sanctuary. Or go to <https://bit.ly/uucwJandC> and choose whether you'd like them shared in our weekly e-news or shared privately with Rev. Julie at rev.julie@uucw.org or the Lay Pastoral Care Team at laypastoralcare@uucw.org



UUCW Joys & Concerns

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS Ushers: Bill Bowen

Greeters: Mary Catanese and granddaughter Sophia Pugens

No coffee is served after service today.

Chalice Table Decoration: The Holiday Decorating Team

CHURCH STAFF Minister: The Rev. Julie Stoneberg – rev.julie@uucw.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education: Dave Cicero - davec@uucw.org

Music Director: Ruben Piirainen - rubenp@uucw.org

Church Administrator: Vicki Banville - vickib@uucw.org

Publications Coordinator: Kelly Bognar - kellyb@uucw.org

Today's Sound Technician: Miles Bognar