

**Unitarian Universalist Church West -- Order of Service**  
**December 24, 2023 – 10 am and 4 pm**  
**“Let the Mystery Be”** **Rev. Julie Stoneberg**

1. **Prelude**- "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," trad. Polish carol, arr. by Anna Laura Page - Ruben Piirainen, Director of Music
2. **Entering with Responsive Caroling** – "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
"Christmas Eve Litany" by Bruce A. Bode
3. **Opening Words** - "We Have an Old Story to Tell" by Gretchen Haley - The Rev. Julie Stoneberg
4. **Chalice Lighting** - from "Starlight, Starbright" by Sheila Moon  
(Please read along; if you are joining us at home, you're invited to kindle a chalice or candle there.)

What do I wish?  
That the dark sky shall comprehend  
and wrap itself in silence,  
that all aching mortality fall to its knees  
before such minor miracles as stars,  
a handful of fire to warm a room,  
the inexpressible alleluia of birth,  
and the frail, imperishable body of love.

5. **Greetings** – Board of Trustees Representative – Larry Hawley (10am); Rob Zimmerman (4pm)
6. **Passing the Peace**
7. **Caroling Together** – "Joy to the World"
8. **Reading** - "The Birth of Jesus" by Sophia Lyon Fahs  
Read by: Dave, Caden and Rory Hamel (10am)  
Merritt Tynefield and Karen Zimmerman (4pm)
9. **Musical Offering** - "There's a Star in the East" - performed by UUCW's Multigen Choir (10am)  
"Still, Still, Still" - performed by Brennan Martinez, soloist (4pm)
10. **Reading** – "God in the Doorway" by Annie Dillard - read by Jacqueline Rivest (10am) and Natalie Fleury (4pm)
11. **Caroling Together** – "Angels We Have Heard on High"
12. **Homily** – "Let the Mystery Be" - Rev. Julie
13. **Caroling Together** – "Let Christmas Come"
14. **Reading** – "For So the Children Come" by Sophia Lyon Fahs - read by Nick Clark (10am) and Laurie Boddie (4pm)
15. **Musical Offering** – "O Christmas Tree" - performed by UUCW's Multigen Choir (10am)  
"O Holy Night" - performed by Brennan Martinez, soloist (4pm)
16. **Reading** - "Open to Awe" by Shari Woodbury - read by Matthew Jaworski (10am) and Laurie Boddie (4pm)
17. **Caroling Together** – "O Come All Ye Faithful"

18. **Offering** – Rev. Julie
19. **Offertory Music** – “In the Bleak Midwinter” by Gustav Holst, arr. by Marilyn Thompson - performed by Ruben Piirainen
20. **Dedication of the Offering**  
 We dedicate these generously-given gifts to the mystery of Christmas.  
 May love be born in our hearts today  
 that we may send its peace, hope and joy out into the world.
21. **Prayer** - inspired by “O Antiphons - the extended dance re-mix” by Nadia Bolz-Weber – Rev. Julie
22. **Candle Lighting Ceremony** – “For this is Christmas Eve” by Tracy Pullman
23. **Caroling Together** – “Silent Night”
24. **Closing Words** - “The Holy Dwells in Each of Us” by Renee Ruchotzke
25. **Chalice Extinguishing**
26. **Postlude** – “What Child is This” arr. by Mark Hayes; performed by Ruben Piirainen



**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee  
 lie!  
 (Pause)  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent  
 stars go by;  
 (Pause)  
 yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting  
 light;  
 (Pause)  
 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee  
 tonight.  
 (Pause)  
 How silently, how silently the wonder is made  
 known,  
 (Pause)  
 when God imparts to human hearts the gift that is  
 our own.  
 (Pause)  
 No ear may hear that coming, but in this worldly  
 din,  
 (Pause)  
 when souls are truly humble, then the dear babe  
 rests within.

**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

**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](http://uucw.org) & click “Donate,” “Make a Difference”

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

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

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus: Gloria, in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?  
(Chorus)

See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love.  
(Chorus)

### **Let Christmas Come**

Let Christmas come, its story told,  
when days are short and winds are cold;  
let Christmas come, its lovely song  
when evening's soon and night is long.

Let Christmas come, its great star glow,  
on quiet city, parks of snow;  
let Christmas come, its table gleam,  
love born again: the truth of dream.

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

(Chorus)  
venite, adoremus,  
venite, adoremus,  
venite, adoremus Dominum.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
(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

#### **THANK YOU TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:**

Ushers: Bill Bowen,  
Greeters: Kathy White  
Church and Table Decorations: The Holiday  
Decorating Team - Karen Zimmerman,  
Laurie Boddie, Hank Kulesza, Irene  
Heideman, Collen Gresk, Miles Bognar and  
Kelly Bognar

#### **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 last year, 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.

