Grounded in love, UUCW is a joyful community committed to spiritual growth, inclusion, and justice.

Unitarian Universalist Church West – Order of Service – January 5, 2025

"Look Both Ways: A New Year's Ritual" Rev. Jill Braithwaite

1. **Prelude** – "The Little Shepherd" by Claude Debussy, performed by Ruben Piirainen, Director of Music
2. **Welcome** – Board of Trustees Representative, Kathy White
3. **Call to Worship** – "Meditation for a New Year" by Amanda Poppei - Rev. Jill Braithwaite
4. **Congregational Singing** - #350 "The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time," African American spiritual with words by J. A. Storey
5. **Chalice Lighting** – Rev. Jill and Kathy White
   (Please read along, and if you are joining us at home, feel free to kindle your chalice or candle.)

   We light our chalice as a symbol of our faith,
   centered in love.
   We light our chalice as a symbol of community,
   for the warmth of gathering together.
   We light our chalice as a beacon of hope,
   with open hearts, minds, and hands.

6. **Story for All Ages** – *The Little Tree* by Loren Long – read by Dave Cicero, DLRE
7. **Joys and Concerns** – Rev. Jill
8. **Meditation** – "Carry Us into the New Year" (adapted) by Rev. Beth Monhollen - Rev. Jill
9. **Singing Meditation** (remain seated) #391 "Voice Still and Small" by John Corrado
10. **Reading** – A wisdom story from the Zen Buddhist tradition - read by Deb Stevens
11. **Reflection -** "Look Both Ways" – Rev. Jill Braithwaite
12. **Letting-Go Ritual** – Rev. Jill and Kathy
13. **Congregational Singing** - "Loosen, Loosen" by Aly Halpert
14. **Offering Words** – Kathy Lake, Split the Plate committee chair
15. **Offertory Music** – "Gnossienne no. 4" by Erik Satie, performed by Ruben
16. **Offering Dedication**

    To the work of this community,
    which is to ground ourselves in love and joy
    and to act for inclusion and justice,
    we dedicate ourselves and these our offerings.

Our Split the Plate partner for January is The Ability Center. How to Give:

IN-PERSON: Loose cash and contributions (checks/cash) labeled "split" will be shared this month's Split the Plate partner organization.

ONLINE: Text "UUCW" to 73256 - OR – go to uucw.org and click "Donate"

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

17. **Responsive Reading** – "New Year's Day" (adapted) by Rev. Kathleen McTigue - Rev. Jill

Leader: This January day is another day dawning, the sun rising as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms,

All: *With or without our calendars to name a certain day as the day of new beginning, separating the old from the new.*

Leader: So it is: everything is the same, bound into its history as we ourselves are bound.

All: *Yet also we stand at a threshold, the new year something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands.*

Leader: What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year?

All: *Let us begin by remembering that whatever justice, whatever peace and wholeness might bloom, in our world this year,*

Leader: We are the hearts and minds, the hands and feet, the embodiment of all the best visions of our people.

All: *The new year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams.*

Leader: Let us take the step forward together, onto new ground,

All: *Planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.*

18. **Congregational Singing** #16 "Tis a Gift to Be Simple," American Shaker tune
19. **Benediction and Chalice Extinguishing** – Rev. Jill and Kathy White
20. **Postlude** – "Pizzicato Polka" by Leo Delibes, performed by Ruben

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:

Ushers:
Greeters: Julieann Gaetano
Newcomer Table: Peter Geiss
Coffee Volunteers: Jude Christensen, Mike Savic
Chalice Table Decoration: The Holiday Decorating Team