

THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Est. 1870



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020

7 p.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE – “The First Noel”

Trad. English carol, arr. by Jamie Mulfinger

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Adeste Fideles

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;

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

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Howard Thurman

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

MUSIC – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Lewis H. Redner, arr. by Mark Hayes

LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:2-7

MUSIC – “Sleep, Holy Child”

THE OFFERTORY

This year's Christmas Eve collection will be given to the Neighbors' Place, a local community center providing a hand up to residents in and around Wausau. You can give online at: <https://onrealm.org/uuwausau/-/give/online>. From your phone you can make a gift by texting "FirstUUWausau" to 73256. Or you can mail cash or a check in an envelope with your name on it to: First Universalist Unitarian Church | 504 Grant Street | Wausau, WI 54403.

DOXOLOGY

From all that dwell below the skies;
Let songs of hope and faith arise;
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 2:1-20

HYMN – "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Goodwill to all, and peace on earth,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;

Edmund H. Sears; music by Richard S. Willis

Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

SERMON

A Great Light

Text: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."

Isaiah 9:2

HYMN – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
[Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
[Refrain]

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN – “Joy to the World”

Isaac Watts

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness.
And wonders of his love.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

POSTLUDE – “Sing We Now of Christmas”

Trad. French carol, arr. by Mark Hayes



Poinsettia Dedications

Given with immense gratitude and eternal love in honor of our dearly missed parents, Jack and Betty Williams, by Terri Kohnert, Lee Williams, and Scott Williams. One of their greatest gifts to us was roots in this church.

In loving memory of my parents, Dorothy and Walter Reynolds and my brother Chuck, from Joyce Reynolds Kurth.

In loving memory of Gerry Heinz—high spirited, loving mother and Mimi.
From Todd Nick, Geri Heinz and family

In loving memory Tom Radley—forever in our hearts.
From Todd Nick, Geri Heinz and family

Memorial for the ever-inspiring Barb Seegert, by Mike and Deb Wasilczuk

For Fran, in loving memory, from Elmae Passineau.

From Mary and Dennis, in memory of their parents.

In memory of Matthew H Raasch, our grandson, from Mike and Mary Moen

In memorial of our parents Martha and Udaire Allord and Lois and Stanley Moen, from Mike and Mary Moen.

In memory of Grandma Gertrude, from the Harrington Family.

In memory of our parents – Mary Jane & Harris LaChapelle, and Dagny & Oley Berge, from Dave and Gail Berge.

In loving memory of parents, Rosemary and Albert Gantert, and sister-in-law Gail Walker, from Diane Walker and Steve Gantert.

In memory of our dear friend Edith Peterson, sorely missed, from Valerie Uber and Family.

In celebration of Jo and Bill Uber, the Biking Vikings, and many wonderful miles ridden together, from Valerie Uber and Family.

In loving memory of my grandparents who I miss most this time of year, and for all of those we have lost during this challenging time, from Kara Hall.

In loving memory of Papaw, Walter Wesley Green, from Sarah, Brian, and Ellie.

In memory of Nancy Frawley, still missed by her three girls, Ann, Kate, and Elizabeth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, December 24, 2020

WELCOME

Today is Christmas Eve. The preacher is the Reverend Brian J. Mason, Minister in the Church. The worship associate is Julie Trombley, Director of Religious Education in the Church. The first lesson is read by Lilyan Casey. The second lesson is read by Sylvia Wright. The music for this service is provided by Margaret Jerz, Music Director and Choirmaster in the Church; Wendy Galbraith, guest Vocalist; and Louis Pradt, guest Flautist. The service is edited by Dänika Kozlovich, Administrator in the Church.

For more information on upcoming services and events:

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