

Soul Matters Monthly Theme: What does it mean to be a Community of Wonder?

The story of the Nativity of Christ is not just a lovely, starlit moment of precious magic and calm adoration. It's the story of God's subversion of the world, through no power at all except love.

—Rev. Steve Garnass-Holmes

Order of Service for December 24, 2022: The Wonder of Children

Rev. Rita Capezzi, Officiating

Susan Stevens Chambers, Worship Associate

Director of Children's Faith Development Macey Forsyth, Storyteller

Denny Cramblit and Jeff Lowry, Readers

Nancy Cramblit, Pianist

Members of the UUFM Choir, Musicians

Kat Clements and Todd Schweim, Tech Squad

Dennis Cramblit, Hearing Assist

Sue Wiltgen, Hospitality Coordination

Gathering Music: "Sure on This Shining Night" (2005) by Morten Lauridsen from a poem by James Agee (1934) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwxIMvV6LkE>

Bell Chime

Chalice Lighting: "Christmas Light" by May Sarton (1912-1995), a Belgian-American poet, novelist, and memoirist.

For those attending by Zoom, please type into the Chat that a chalice is lit on [your street]:

Centering Music: *Deep Peace (A Christmas Prayer)*, words from an ancient Gaelic prayer and music by Ruth Elaine Schram (1997 from the Alfred Publishing Co., Inc)

Opening Words

Hymn: #225 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (gray hymnal), from a 9th century Latin chant recast by John Mason Neale with music adapted by Thomas Helmore and harmony by John Weaver

Reading: From the Christian Scripture, Luke 2:1-20 (*New King James*)

Reading: From the Quran, "The Family of 'Imrân" verses 45-47 (*The Clear Quran*)

Story: *Wonder Walkers* (2021), written and illustrated by Micha Archer, a White an artist, illustrator, and educator living in Western Massachusetts <https://youtu.be/OwR3RqUHvWg>

Reading: "The Camels Speak" by the Rev. Lynn Ungar, a White Unitarian Universalist minister and poet

Offering to "A Tiny Child, So Full of Joy" (2013) a traditional Norwegian melody arranged by Lorie Line (b. 1958), a White classically trained pianist, composer, and performer from Reno, Nevada.

Tonight's collection supports the Minister's Emergency fund, used at the Minister's discretion for congregants in need.

Prayer/Meditation: “A Christmas Prayer” by the Rev. Maureen Killoran, a White Unitarian Universalist minister who over the past 30 years has served congregations in Ohio, British Columbia, Oregon, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Maryland, Texas, and Florida
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/christmas-prayer>

Hymn: #251 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (gray hymnal), words by Joseph Mohr and music by Franz Xaver Gruber

Reading: “A Christmas Prayer with Seven Words” by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker, a White American theologian and Unitarian Universalist minister
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/christmas-prayer-seven-words>

“This prayer was written and delivered in 2017, days after former President Donald Trump and his administration [banned](#) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from using the following seven words/phrases: “vulnerable,” “entitlement,” “diversity,” “transgender,” “fetus,” “evidence-based” and “science-based.” This prayer by Rev. Dr. Parker is one way that Unitarian Universalist (and other) clergy protested and resisted that decision.”

Hymn/Reading: #1061 “For So the Children Come” (teal hymnal), words by the Rev. Sophia Lyon Fahs and music by Jason Shelton

Story: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss (1904-1991), aka Theodor Geisel, a White American children's author and cartoonist

Closing Words

Benediction/Chalice Extinguishing: “Now the Work of Christmas Begins” by Howard Thurman (1891-1981), a Black American author, philosopher, theologian, mystic, educator, and civil rights leader

Hymn: #245 “Joy to the World” (gray hymnal), words by the UUA Hymnal Commission based on those by Isaac Watts to music from the *Methodist Collection of Tunes*.

In-person: Hospitality in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the Fellowship building.

On Zoom: A time for gathering to meet, talk, and connect.