



December 13, 2020

## **Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva**

### **Today's Worship Team**

**In the Pulpit:** Rev. Scot Hull

**Worship Associate:** Gail Tattersfield

**Musicians:** Lynn Fisher McCanne, Cynthia Spiegel

**Technical Directors:** Jeff Stibal, Cari Gesiakowski

### **Upcoming Services:**

**Sunday, December 20:** Rev. Scot Hull; "Yuletide Merry"

**Thursday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Service at 5pm

**Sunday, December 27:** Guest-in-the-Pulpit: Rev. Charles Earp

*Come as you are.*

# Order of Worship

**Ringing the Bell** Sam Gesiakowski, Elaina Hruby

## Call to Worship

**Prelude** Lu Y'Hi, composer N. Shemer, arr. E. Kalendar

## Welcoming Words

**Opening Hymn** # 400 Shalom Havayreem

Shalom, havayreem!

Shalom, havayreem!

Shalom, shalom!

L'hitraot, l'hitraot,

shalom, shalom.

**Chalice Lighting** Sam Gesiakowski, Elaina Hruby

## Song of Praise

Praise God, the Love we all may share;

Praise God, the Beauty everywhere;

Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;

Praise God, the Truth that makes us free.

**Our Covenant** (written in 1842)

Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world,  
And of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement,

We have associated ourselves together -

Not as agreeing in opinion,

Not as having attained universal truth in belief

Or perfection in character -

But as seekers after truth and goodness.

## Doxology

From all that dwell below the skies

Let faith and hope with love arise;

Let beauty, truth, and good be sung

Through every land by every tongue.

## Passing the Peace

**For All Ages** "Shmelf the Hanukkah Elf," Greg Wolfe  
presented by Becky Hruby

## Joys & Sorrows

## **Hymn # 123 "Spirit of Life"**

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

**Beyond Our Walls (BOW)** Mutual Ground, presented by Jean Pierce

**Offertory** based on Hymn #280, "Haleluhu," traditional Hebrew, music  
arr. Mark Slegers

## **Gratitude for the Offering**

### **Reading**

**Musical Response** "Avinu Malkénu," traditional music with  
liturgical text, arr. E. Kalendar

**Sermon** "What the Hanukkah?"

### **Closing Hymn # 280 "Haleluhu"**

Haleluhu, haleluhu, betsiltselei shama.  
Haleluhu, haleluhu, betsiltselei terua.  
Kol han'shama tehaleil yah,  
Haleluyah, haleluyah!  
Kol han'shama tehaleil yah,  
Haleluyah, haleluyah!

## **Chalice Extinguishing and Unison Closing**

### **Benediction**

**Postlude** "S'Vivon," traditional music, arr. Robert Schultz

## **Community Announcements**

### **Talk Back and Coffee Hour Breakouts**

# Today & This Week at UUSG

[uusg.org/calendar](https://uusg.org/calendar)

(All activities meet via Zoom. Contact your group leader for links.)

## **Sunday, December 13**

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 1:00 pm Parents Circle

## **Monday, December 14**

## **Tuesday, December 15**

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot
- 1:00 pm The Help Desk with Christine

## **Wednesday, December 16**

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

## **Thursday, December 17**

- 11:00 am Simply Sharing Circle

## **Friday, December 18**

- 7:30 pm UUSG Family Game Night

## **Saturday, December 19**

## **Sunday, December 20**

- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 1:00 pm Minister Coffee

# Announcements

**The For All Ages book today is “Shmelf the Hanukkah Elf,”** written by Greg Wolfe and illustrated by Howard McWilliam, published by Bloomsbury USA. Shmelf is one of Santa’s elves. He can’t understand why all the good boys and girls are not on Santa’s list. The answer takes him on a journey from the North Pole where he discovers all the joys of Hanukkah. Thanks to Bloomsbury USA for their permission to share the book today. When shopping for books, please patronize our local independent bookshops: Harvey's Tales, Townhouse Books, and Anderson's Bookshop. If you prefer to shop online, [Bookshop.org](http://Bookshop.org) allows your purchase to support the independent bookshop of your choice.

**One Book One UUSG.** During this difficult isolating time, let’s connect with each other through literacy. The WOW Team is hosting a virtual book discussion group that will meet on **Wednesday, January 13, at 7pm.** We will be discussing the book “The Humans” by Matt Haig. All are welcome. Copies of the book are available or can be requested at your local library for check-out. We also encourage you to try [Alibris](http://Alibris.com) or [BetterWorldBooks](http://BetterWorldBooks.com) or your favorite used book site for purchase of this novel. Of course, it would also be lovely to support Harvey’s Tales or Town House Books, our local bookstores, with your purchase. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 22,** if you plan to join us so we may plan for our January Zoom meeting. You may email Glenda ([peckrglenda@gmail.com](mailto:peckrglenda@gmail.com)) or Carol ([carollmyers49@gmail.com](mailto:carollmyers49@gmail.com)) with your RSVP and/or any questions you may have. The following is a brief description of the book:

*“The Humans is a funny, compulsively readable novel about alien abduction, mathematics, and that most interesting subject of all: ourselves. Combine Douglas Adam’s irreverent take on life, the universe, and everything with a genuinely moving love story, and you have some idea of the humor, originality, and poignancy of Matt Haig’s latest novel.”* Goodreads

**BYOL (Lunch) with Rev. Scot: Tuesdays at Noon** Rev. Scot will be hosting an open meeting on Zoom each Tuesday at noon. No agenda. No requirements. Come if you can, when you can. Just bring yourself, your concerns, your questions, your stories, your jokes—and your lunch—and join him (and your congregational friends!) in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5832903665>. Meeting ID: 583 290 3665, Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago).

**The Board of Directors** has extended our current stay-at-home practice including a continuation of virtual services, group meetings and other functions until at least **January 31.**

**Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy.** The Board of Directors has re-visited the June 2020 Board Statement and our plans for moving forward. Please visit our website to read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future, or read it here: [Updated "Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG's COVID-19 Reopening Strategy."](#)

**For All Ages Opportunity** Are you interested in an opportunity to read a "For All Ages" story during a Zoom Sunday service? Please let the newly formed "For All Ages Team" of Rhonda Robinson, Tom Lichtenheld and Becky Hruby know! Whether you want to read alone or with a loved one, there will be stories to tell. Please let us know if you would like your name on the list of potential readers. There will be many opportunities throughout the year. Also note whether you prefer a solo gig or have other voices in your home that would like to join you. Please contact Becky Hruby at [DRE@uusg.org](mailto:DRE@uusg.org).

**Virtual Family Game Night!** Friday, Dec. 18, 7-8:30pm. Our first virtual game night was a hit! About a dozen friends got together and laughed, played and had fun! **"This is the most fun since sliced bread!"--P. Nut Butter** Join your friends at UUSG for another nutty time as we play some old games and new favorites, including: Skribbl.io, Heads Up!, Psych!. We also own numerous party packs from Jackbox Games (Quiplash, Trivia Murder Party, Fibbage, to name a few)! We promise it's not hard to play. Your belly will thank you for filling it with laughter. To play, simply join the Zoom meeting on your computer or laptop and bring an iOS or Android smartphone or tablet, which players will use separately to participate in the games. No advance preparation is necessary. We look forward to seeing you. Be there or be square! Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83203291200>

**End of Life Issues for Me or My Loved Ones** Do you have questions about end of life issues? Want to know more about what paperwork is needed for making important decisions about your medical care? Wondering about what support is available for people nearing the end of their lives, both medical and financial? 2U has created a series of recordings with Rev. Elizabeth Harding, AM, MDiv, LCSW. Rev. Elizabeth Harding has been a member of 2U for 35 years and serves as one of their community ministers. She has worked as a hospital chaplain, hospice chaplain, and bereavement counselor for over ten years, and has graduate degrees from Meadville Lombard Theological School and the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Rev. Elizabeth Harding has created [these videos](#) that cover Advance Directives, Hospice 101, and Palliative Care 101.

**Sermons and For All Ages Stories Now on YouTube!** Would you like to watch past sermons and FAA presentations and share them with friends and family? Visit our YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9oupYz5jh08iZ3u1m-J-kw>.

**For UUs who simply want to learn more about the history of the Bible** as literature, as well as early Christianity, "Bible Study for UUs" is on the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30pm. Our next meeting will be on December 21. We'll be discussing the movie "[The Last Temptation of Christ](#)." Also, I mention "[Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal](#)" a lot. We'll meet using Zoom. For more info, please contact Jim Frazier [biblestudy@uusg.org](mailto:biblestudy@uusg.org).

## **Social Justice News**

**Call to Action: Please contact your state legislators** and ask them to resist spending cuts to our core services such as education, healthcare, and human services including Mutual Ground Shelter. To see final election results and contact information for your Illinois legislators, see the Senate and House links for Election 2020 at [ballotpedia.org/Illinois General Assembly](http://ballotpedia.org/Illinois_General_Assembly) .

**December Beyond Our Walls: Mutual Ground Shelter** The vision of Mutual Ground Shelter in Aurora is to create a society free of domestic and sexual violence by providing education, awareness, and life-changing services that empower individuals, families, and communities to end the cycles of domestic and sexual violence in Kane and Kendall Counties. They provide counseling, advocacy, education, and shelter, as well as a 24/7 hotline. Their work is threatened by deep budget cuts from the State of Illinois. Your contribution will provide personal items needed by the individuals whom they shelter.

## **Conversations with Rev. Scot, Sundays at 1pm**

Rev. Scot wants to connect with you! Join him in December for the following discussions:

### **December 13: Parents Circle**

Got kids? These are impossible times, and impossible times calls for coffee and community. If you can take an hour, come chat with Rev. Scot and other UUSG parents about what's on your head & heart.

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84033914938>

### **December 20: Minister Coffee**

Open Forum! For those of you that think those talk-back sessions are just a tad too short, this is for you. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a cup of coffee, and we'll chat!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896751773>

### **Contact Information**

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