



December 24, 2020

**Unitarian Universalist  
Society of Geneva**

**Christmas Eve**

**Today's Worship Team**

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

**Worship Associate:** Rhonda Robinson

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

*Come as you are.*

# Order of Worship

## Ringing the Bell

## Centering

**Prelude** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (arr. Chip Davis)

## Welcoming Words

## Chalice Lighting

**Reading** Luke 2:1-7, presented by the Sapet Family

**Music** O Little Town of Bethlehem (arr. Julie Ann Ballard)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering  
love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

**Reading** Luke 2:8-14, presented by Rev. Scot Hull

**Music** "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

**Reading** Luke 2:15-19, presented by the Gesiakowski Family

**Music** "The First Nowell"

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds,  
in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's  
night that was so deep.

Chorus

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them  
far,  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day  
and night.

Chorus

**Reading** "Winter Blessing," Rebecca Parker,  
Presented by Rhonda Robinson

**Music** "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

**Reading** "God Is Always Needing to Be Born," Meister Eckhart,  
presented by Brian Doyle

**Music** "It Came Upon a 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:  
"Peace on the earth, to all good will, from heaven the news we  
bring."

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.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing;  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.  
And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

**Reading** "Midwives in the Process," Jan Richardson  
presented by the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Minister Emerita

### **Offertory**

The UUSG "Make A Difference" (MAD) Fund and the HSP Senior Gift Bags Project will be the recipients of our Christmas Eve Service offering

**Reading** "If Darwin Prayed," Bruce Sanguin,  
presented by Sherri Casterline

### **Music** "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! Now gladness reigns:  
Let hearts their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground.  
Let righteousness its glories show  
As far as love is found, as far as love is found,  
As far, as far as love is found!

### **Homily** "Christmas Lights"

**Chalice Extinguishing / Unison Closing** "The Work of Christmas,"  
Howard Thurman

## **Benediction**

**Postlude** Peace, Peace / # 251 Silent Night, arr. Fred Bock

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,"  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
child of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

**Thank you for joining us this evening. May you have a most happy and blessed Christmas!**

**Musicians in order of appearance:**

Sandra Anderson, piano; Alex Cordogan, violin; Cynthia Spiegel, voice and piano; UUSG Choir\*; Emily, Steve, Sarah and Helenna Clark, vocalists; Kelly Herz, voice; Elena Spiegel, violin; Sophia Spiegel, cello; Andy Montgomery, voice and guitar; Evelyn Miller, trumpet; UUSG Choir\* joined by choir of The Unitarian Universalist Church of Charleston, directed by Susan Conant, flute.

**\*Special thanks to the UUSG Choir, led by Cynthia Spiegel, for sharing their beautiful music with us tonight:** Mark Adams, Katie Baar, Trish Beckjord, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Roger Gallentine, Dave Hanchette, Rachel Harbold, Tom Haslett, Kelly Herz, Jessica Littlefield, Linda O’Neill, Rhonda Robinson, Kate Rogers, Clair Ryan, Pat Vary, Tom Zimmerman.

**Photos by** Tom Lichtenheld & Jim Frazier

