



Our spiritual practice for December is **Presence**.

*“At the end of the day: do others feel loved in your presence?  
This is the spiritual bottom line.”*

~Mastin Kipp

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**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**“In the Presence of Mystery”**  
with Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee

Our very presence on this earth is part of the mystery we are engulfed in.  
Let us spend time recognizing the wonder of being alive,  
and being present to this gift.

**Prelude** *Troy Fisher (he/him)*

**Morning Song** *Congregation*

**Hymn #225 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

Words: based on John Mason Neale, recast

Music: adapt. by Thomas Helmore

**Welcome** *Alicia Seegers Martinelli  
(she/her)*

**Lighting the Chalice** *Alicia Seegers Martinelli*

Singing the Living Tradition #434

**Lighting the Third Advent Candle** *Rev. Mary Gear (she/her)*

ritual adapted from Rev. Lyn Cox

**Opening Words** *Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee  
(she/her)*

“Welcome Mystery...” by Rev. Dr. Rebekah Savage

**Opening Hymn** *Congregation*

**Hymn #389 “Gathered Here”**

Words & Music: Philip A. Porter

**Story for All** *Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her)*

Bored in the Backseat

**Musical Interlude** *Troy Fisher*

**Share the Plate Offering** *Alicia Seegers Martinelli*

**Offertory** *OUUC Choir*

“Where the Light Begins”

Words: Jan Richardson / Music: Susan Labarr

**Ritual of Sharing From the Heart** *Rev. Mary Gear*

**Prayerful Practice** *Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee*

**Musical Response** *Congregation*

**“Dwelling In The Present Moment”**

Words & Music: Laurence Cole

**Reading** *Alicia Seegers Martinelli*

from Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

**Musical Interlude** *Troy Fisher*

**Sermon: In the Presence of Mystery** *Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee*

**Closing Hymn** *Congregation*

**Hymn #352 “Find A Stillness”**

Words: Carl G. Seaburg, based on Unitarian

Transylvanian text / Music: Transylvanian hymn

tune, harmony by Larry Phillips

**Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice** *Rev. Mary Gear*

adapted from Elizabeth Selle Jones

At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well.

Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance online and in-person.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

**Reflection questions:**

- Where do you experience mystery, reverence or rapture?
- Can you share a time when you felt fully present in a place or situation? What was that like?
- What do you do to create a sense of presence in your life?

**Today's After-Service Forum (11:30 am): Welcome and Inclusion Training**

Join Rev. Sara for a discussion and training on how we can live our mission to welcome and include everyone.

**Next Sunday, December 22, 2024:****“This Season Brings Forth Many Feelings” with Rev. Mary Gear**

We celebrate the Winter Solstice and the time of darkness with a ritual to welcome the complexity of all feelings this season.

*There will be no After-Service Forum on December 22 — Happy Holidays!*

**Come gather in the homes of OUUC members for light refreshments and exploration of what this community means to you.** The Stewardship Team is offering several **Gather, Grow, & Guide Sessions** to share stories, build connections, and deepen our sense of community. For those onsite, you can connect with one of the Stewardship team members in the Commons after the service. Otherwise, find the link to register here:

<https://www.ouuc.org/gather-grow-and-guide/>

**You may have heard the exciting news that we will be adding a second Sunday morning service starting on January 12.** We'll open our doors wide to make room for everyone. For more information: <https://www.ouuc.org/2services/>

**Share the Plate Offering:** Our Share the Plate organization for November and December is CARE, which stands for Collaborative Association for Reintegration and Education.

The mission of CARE is to support community transformation by working to address all forms of discrimination against those who have been incarcerated or detained, with a particular focus on affected youth. They fulfill this mission by connecting impacted individuals to community resources and advocating to increase public understanding and awareness of issues related to the criminal legal system, reintegration, and recovery.

If you write a check, please note "pledge" if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to: 2306 East End St NW, Olympia, WA 98502
- Donate online at: <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>
- Donate by text: Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

**“Where the Light Begins” Concert / Community Sing-In with the OUUC Choir and guest musicians: Sunday, December 22, 7:00 pm.** This special, one-night-only event will feature: some holiday favorites, some Leonard Cohen, the Beatles, some classical, and sing-a-longs to lift our spirits. Come and join in as we fill the hall with music.

**We will have our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight services at 5:30 and 9 pm on Tuesday, December 24.** Come join us as we celebrate the light of community.

**For more info on these and more upcoming holiday events and altered office hours:** <https://www.ouuc.org/holiday-services-and-events/>

**Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:** <https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>

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