



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 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.

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

**Morning Song** *Congregation*

**Hymn #226 “People, Look East”**

Words: Eleanor Farjeon / Music: Traditional French carol,  
harmony by Martin Shaw

**Welcome** *Curt Hill (he/him)*

**Lighting the Chalice** *Curt Hill*

“Chalice Lighting for Winter Solstice” by Sharon Wylie

**Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle** *Rev. Mary Gear  
(she/her)*  
ritual adapted from Rev. Lyn Cox

**Opening Words** *Rev. Mary Gear*

“Blue Christmas: This, Too, Belongs” by Rev. Kari Kopnick  
*The mantra “this too belongs” is from a talk by respected Buddhist  
teacher Tara Brach. Used with gratitude and appreciation.*

**Opening Hymn** *Congregation*

**Hymn #55 “Dark of Winter”**

Words & Music: Shelley Jackson Denham

**Story for All** *Rev. Sara Lewis*

“The Bottom of the Well” by Aaron McEmrys  
*(she/her)*

**Musical Interlude** *Troy Fisher*

**Share the Plate Offering** *Curt Hill*

**Offertory** *Troy Fisher*

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

**Prayerful Practice** *Rev. Mary Gear*

“Making Room for All That Is” by Lyn Cox, adapted

**Musical Response** *Congregation*

**Hymn #1034 “De Noche”**

Words: Unknown / Music: Jacques Berthier

**Reading** *Curt Hill*

from Bruce Marshall

**This Season Brings Forth Many Feelings** *Rev. Mary Gear*

Reflection

“Litany of Comfort for Blue Christmas” by Debra Faulk

Naming and Blessing of Feelings

“Hope Rises” by John A. Buehrens & Rebecca Ann

Parker, adapted

**Closing Hymn** *Congregation*

**Hymn #1057 “Go Lifted Up”**

Words & Music: Mortimer B. Barron

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

“Hope Continues” by Kevin Jagoe, adapted

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:**

- What does the darkness mean to you?
- Would you like to share the feelings you have this season?
- Is there something helping you practice hope right now?

**There are no After-Service Forums today or next week — Happy Holidays!****Next Sunday, December 29, 2024:****“New Year Fire Communion” with Rev. Sara Lewis**

Please join us for a very different kind of worship experience as we hold outdoor worship stations to pause, release what we want to release from 2024, and enter 2025 with new intentions. We will also have a social fire pit for visiting and chatting. NOTE: There will be no nursery care, and this service will not be streamed online. Please join us outside and onsite.

***Dress for the weather!***

**TONIGHT at 7 pm: “Where the Light Begins” Concert / Community Sing-In with the OUUC Choir and guest musicians.** 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 OUUC sanctuary 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, giving opportunities, and altered office hours:**

<https://www.ouuc.org/holiday-services-and-events/>

**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.

**Have you signed up yet for one of our Gather, Grow, & Guide Sessions to share stories, build connections, and deepen our sense of community?** Come gather in the homes of OUUC members for light refreshments and exploration of what this community means to you. Please 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/>

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

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