



5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 24, 2024

**“Comfort and Joy: A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service”**

with Rev. Mary Gear, Rev. Sara Lewis, Troy Fisher, and the OUUC Choir

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

**Anthem** *OUUC Choir with Soloists:  
Curt Hill, Arlene Colerick,  
& Mark Messinger*  
“A Soul Cake”  
Songwriters: Elena Mezzetti, Noel Paul Stookey,  
Tracey Batteast, Tracy Batteast / Arranged: Sting

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

**Lighting the Chalice** *Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her)*  
“This Night of Mystery” by Rev. Linda Hart

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

**Sing Together** *Congregation*  
**Hymn #253 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**  
Words & Music: John Francis Wade

**Opening Words** *Rev. Mary Gear*  
“Beneath the Slow Stars – Approaching Solstice”  
by Jennifer Pratt-Walter

**Sing Together** *Congregation*  
**Hymn #246 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**  
Words: Phillips Brooks / Music: Lewis H. Redner

**Reading 1** *Curt Hill*  
from Christian Scripture, book of Luke, ch. 2

**Solo** *Anna Garrett*  
“Lo, How a Rose”  
German, 15th Century Carol

**Reading 2** *Rev. Mary Gear*  
from Christian Scripture, book of Matthew, ch. 2

**Musical Interlude** *Troy Fisher*

**Reflection: Even a Wounded World** *Rev. Sara Lewis*

**Sing Together** *Congregation*  
**Hymn #244 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**  
Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears  
Music: Richard Storrs Willis

**Offering for the Ministers’ Benevolence Fund** *Curt Hill*

**Offertory** *OUUC Choir with Soloists:  
Karl Johnson & Liz Clement /  
Guitar: Karl Johnson & Jeff  
Coates / Violin: Josie Solseng*  
“Christmas Moon”  
Words & Music: Troy Arnold Fisher

**A Story for All: The Festival of Lights** *Rev. Sara Lewis*

**Musical Interlude** *Troy Fisher*

**Reflection: Comfort and Joy** *Rev. Mary Gear*

**Musical Interlude** *Troy Fisher*

**Sharing the Light** *Rev. Sara Lewis*

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.

**Sing Together***Troy Fisher***Hymn #251 “Silent Night”**

Words: Joseph Mohr, trans. by J. Freeman Young  
(sts. 1 & 3) and anonymous (sts. 2)

Music: Franz Gruber

**Benediction***Rev. Mary Gear*

“The Holy Dwells in Each of Us”

by Renee Ruchotzke

**Postlude***Troy Fisher*

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**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!***

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**For more info on the remaining holiday events, giving opportunities, and altered office hours:** <https://www.ouuc.org/holiday-services-and-events/>

**Tonight’s offering will support the Ministers’ Benevolence Fund.**

With this fund, all of the ministers here are able to help those who request it – people connected with the congregation and others who ask for help. These past few months, we have helped with rent, gas, and medical costs. There are so many stories and so much need. Together, we can do so much more than any one of us alone. Thank you for your generosity.

If you write a check, please note “Minister’s Benevolence” in the memo line.

- 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.

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**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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