

ORDER OF SERVICE

Christmas Eve
2023



Lighting the Christmas Candelabra

Introit **“There Are Angels Hovering ‘Round”** Traditional

The Call to Christmas Celebration

***Carol** **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

THE CHOIR BEGINS IN LATIN.

ALL: 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

O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him

Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God

All glory in the highest

O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him

O come, let us adore him

Christ the Lord!

Reflection *Quiet Bethlehem*

Reading from *The Gospel of Luke*

Carol **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

Oh 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.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love
Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy holy birth.
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

Reflection *Every Night A Child Is Born Is A Holy Night*

CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN:

Each night a child is born is a holy night.

A time for singing, a time for wondering,

A time for worshipping.

Each night a child is born is a holy night.



Reflection *Hope In A Dangerous World*

Reading *The Shepherds and the Angels*

from *the Gospel of Luke*

Carol **“The First Noel”**

The First Noel, the angels 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
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
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
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the king of Israel!



Reflection *All Of Creation*

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Anthem

“Magnum Mysterium”

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!*

Introduction to the Christmas Eve Offering

Our 50/50 split this month benefits **My Brother’s Table** in Lynn.

We share our Sunday morning offering each month with an organization that is dedicated to alleviating human suffering or oppression. The collection will benefit both the church and organization:

- all loose cash in the collection plates will be split on a 50/50 basis between the church and the organization
- checks payable to the church will go only to the church—and toward your pledge—unless otherwise designated (e.g. writing “50/50” on the memo line)
- all checks payable to the organization will go to the organization

Offertory

Reading

First Coming

Madeleine L’Engle

*Carol

“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 world, now gladness reigns!
 Let all their songs employ
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy



**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The light of his righteousness
 And wonders of his love
 And wonders of his love
 And wonders of his love
 And wonders, wonders, of his love.



Christmas Prayer

Sharing of the Light

*Carol

“Silent Night” (“Night Of Silence”)

Daniel Kantor

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!
 Christ the savior is born,
 Christ the savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
 Son of God, love’s pure light;
 Radiant beams from thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



*Benediction

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*



Cover artwork by Linnæa Mallette

Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the Parish Hall (to your right, as you exit the Sanctuary), hosted by Kelly and Tracy Slater.



TONIGHT'S WORSHIP TEAM

The Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister

Kenneth Griffith II, Music Director

David Collins, Pianist

Rev. Chris Scheller, Livestream

Ushers: Mike Martel, Doreen Hodgkin, Michael Paquette



JOIN US

(Visit uucgl.org for more information and additional announcements.)

Sunday Service — A Centered New Year: New Year's Eve Labyrinth Meditation –Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Worship Leader

Sunday, December 31 | 10am

As the wheel of the year turns and we prepare for 2024, we gather to connect with our deeper selves and set intentions for spiritual well-being in the year to come. We will begin with an orientation in the Parish Hall where the Labyrinth will be set up. At 10:30 we will gather in the Skylight Room for hot chocolate and to talk about our labyrinth experience. All ages welcome.

Sunday Evening Meditations

Sunday, January 7 | 4pm

Beginner Tai Chi Classes

Tuesdays | 10-11am | Starting January 9

OWL Sexuality Education for 5th-6th graders

Sundays | 6-8pm | Starting January 14

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Given the seasonal spike in COVID cases and the spread of other infectious diseases like flu and RSV, we encourage the wearing of masks when we are together. Masks are an easy and simple way to minimize worry over sharing germs as we enjoy each other's company.

We Are A Spiritual Community

that gathers to explore deeper truths together,
to support one another through the complexities
and struggles of daily life, and to serve the greater good by
becoming more compassionate in our thoughts, words and actions.

Join with us to cultivate reverence, peacefulness, and an ethic of
loving engagement with the world.

We are so glad that you came out tonight,
whether you are a devoted member or a new visitor.
We are here all year and hope to be a spiritual community
you will consider becoming part of.



Find out more about our church at:
www.uucgl.org



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You may take this Order of Worship to share with family and friends.