Rev's Reflections

Christmas Eve Eve

Every year our Christmas celebration on the evening of the 23rd is special. With unfolding layers of great music, it gives us a chance to gather with family and friends to retell a story with its own layers and layers of meaning for everyone, not just Christians. This year our service is especially significant, because it will be our last with Music Director Mike Galib before he launches his epic adventure in Spain.

Quite a few of you have expressed some worry about the crowd that evening, so I want to take this time to let you all know how it will work. Even if you think you know, please read this.

First off, the long-range forecast is that it will be bitter cold on Monday, so that will likely make the turnout smaller. The choir will be rehearsing in the sanctuary until 6:30, and entrance into the building will be limited to the very small foyer, so please do not arrive until doors open at 6:30. Nobody will be allowed to reserve seats beforehand.

The sanctuary has a legal capacity of a little more than 180 people, including worship leaders and the choir, which is 50 seats more than we usually have in the space. We will have all 178 chairs in the sanctuary and will fill every one of them before asking people to overflow into the Oneto Room next door. Ushers will be asking you all to move over, make space, and leave no seat empty. Please help them by being mindful of the space and other worshipers, especially those with limited mobility who may need aisle seats or chairs with arms. Total capacity of the two rooms is about 225, so it's very unlikely we'll reach full capacity.

Immediately after the service, Linda and a few others will be whisking away the chairs in the Oneto Room and setting up for a cookies-and-cider reception, so please help out by moving chairs and tables or remaining in the sanctuary for the few minutes the transition will take. If you are bringing along cookies for the reception, please drop them in the Oneto room *before* the service.

We take pride in having nearly all of our Sunday services and special events simulcast on Zoom, but because of the limitations and poor sound quality of virtual meeting rooms, Mike and the musicians have always requested that this service not be simulcast or recorded.

Because of Covid, it's been a few years since we've had a really large crowd on Christmas Eve Eve, but Elise and Will, our lead ushers, have lots of experience in making this work. I trust them. And I trust you to do all you can to make the evening enjoyable and festive, even if it does get a little crowded.

In Peace,
Rev Denis