



# ORDER of SERVICE for Sunday, December 12, 2021

*Believing in a community that unites all people*

## Pre-Service Quiet

**Prelude**      *Promise Made on Signal Mountain* by Chad Lawson  
Matthew Johnsen, Music Director

**Chalice Lighting**      words by David Breeden

**Choral Introit**      *Mother Earth Medley*

**Welcome & Opening Words** by Rebecca Parker  
Rev. Cheryl Leshay

✳ **Opening Hymn #225** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## Religious Exploration Moment

**Reading**      *For Our Lady of Guadalupe* by Grevel Lindop

**Offertory**      *1st Gymnopedie* by Erik Satie  
(Newcomers: please accept this service as our gift to you.  
Do not feel obligated to participate in the offering at this time.)

## Joys & Sorrows

## Pastoral Prayer

**Musical Meditation** *The Birch Tree* by Jean Sibelius

**Reflection**      *Journeying Toward Wholeness*  
Rev. Aaron Payson

**Litany**      words by David Breenen

✳ **Closing Hymn #226** *People Look East*

**Benediction**      words of Fr. Austin Fleming (adapted)

**Postlude**      *Valse Lente* by Oskar Merikanto

✳ Please stand in body or in spirit

Text-to-Give - Without check or cash and want to participate in our weekly offering? From a smartphone text the amount of your contribution to 508-231-5335. First-time contributors will be asked for one-time registration information by Simplegive. Thank you for helping us continue to be a congregation of love, hope and justice!

## SERVICE NOTES

*Thanks to this morning's  
Volunteers:*

### In Person Audio Team:

Bruce Leshay & Frank Sweetser

### Facebook Moderator:

Rev. Cheryl Leshay

### Church Photographer:

Betty Jenewin

### Greeter & Connection Team:

Maya Desai & David Fields

Visit a Connections Team Member  
at the Welcome Table for more  
information about UUCW!

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Unless noted otherwise  
*Preservice Quiet & Prelude at 9:50 am*  
*Worship Service and RE Classes at 10 am*  
*Fellowship at 11:15 am*  
Rev. Aaron Payson, Preaching

*Please see other side for Holiday  
Services Schedule (December 19 -  
26)!*

**January 2, 2022**

*Annual Ask the Minister Service*

## FELLOWSHIP INFO

Please! *No food or drink in the  
sanctuary during the service.*

Due to COVID response,  
Fellowship Hour will take place  
outdoors at this time.

## UUCW Activity Calendar ~ December 12 - 19

**Sunday, December 12 - Multi-platform Worship & RE at 10 am**

**Wednesday, December 15**

Noon - 2 pm

Holiday Lunch w/Minister

Fellowship Hall

2 - 3:30 pm

Get Out The Vote Team

Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, December 1 - Multi-platform Worship & RE at 10 am (Solstice)**

4 - 5:30 pm

Holiday Vespers Service

Sanctuary

All other meetings of the church must be scheduled on a case-by-case basis following the guidelines of the Health & Safety Team. Please contact the office to schedule any meetings of the church.



### Annual Holiday Giving Tree Continues!

Please help decorate our Giving Tree with your donated hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. These items will be donated to folks in need. Place your items on the tree in the Sanctuary! Thank You!

### Tidings of Comfort & Joy / The Joy of Holiday Giving

Please visit the Church Website at [www.uucworchester.org](http://www.uucworchester.org) or see the most recent Message & Nugget for information about the **2021 Holiday Services**, and the **Annual Christmas Poinsettias**. Also look for information about the **Minister's Emergency Fund**, **Shoe Box Drive**, and **Holiday Lunch With The Minister** on December 15!

**Litany** words by David Breeden

We welcome the coming

**Of the days we have waited for;**

We have realized hope,

**Yet know that hope**

**Can never be realized.**

We commit ourselves to patience;

**To working to dispel darkness;**

To working for peace;

**We commit ourselves**

**To love and to hope.**

**2021 Minister's Emergency Fund Drive** In 2020 UUCW contributed \$9462.00 to assist families in need in our congregation and community. This money helped pay for homelessness outreach, food, medicine, temporary shelter, utilities, holiday gifts, and transportation. Funds were collected from members and friends of the congregation as well as other communities who partnered with us to provide this outreach. This fund is now empty and has been for the past 4 months due to very high demand this year. During the Winter Holiday season we strive to replenish this fund. There are two ways that we accomplish this. First, the children's "change for change" collection which had been a weekly ritual during Sunday morning worship gives those attending Sunday morning worship a weekly opportunity to contribute. Because of the pandemic we have foregone in-person collection by the children and have placed a basket on the joys & sorrows table for those who wish to contribute in this manner. Additionally, we invite a special offering during the Holiday services (Solstice – New Years) when we invite you to contribute directly to the fund with one of the envelopes provided. Please visit <https://www.uucworchester.org/2021-11-24-emergency-fund-drive/> for a link to give digitally, if you prefer. Your contribution makes a huge difference in the lives of the families we serve!

### OFFICE INFORMATION

**Office Hours :** In person: M, W: 9 am - 3 pm; Th: 9 am - 2 pm; by phone (508-853-1942 ext 102) and email ([office@uucworchester.org](mailto:office@uucworchester.org)) only on Tuesdays. Also, Jen will be on vacation from December 23 -January 2. Regular office hours will resume on January 3 (see above).

### CONGREGATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

The members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester covenant to be a congregation of love, hope and justice inspiring people to take on the challenges of a changing world.

### WELCOMING CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester strives to further the affirmation and celebration of LGBTQI individuals in all aspects of the church community. We also seek to increase the visibility of UUCW as a Welcoming Congregation within the greater community.

### RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION & EDUCATION

**Religious Education:** 10 - 11:15 am, *Youth Group*: 6 - 8 pm, For information on UUCW RE programs, please email the RE program at [uucwre@gmail.com](mailto:uucwre@gmail.com)

### 2021 Holiday Services Schedule - Please see December 1 Nugget for Service Details!

\*Minister's Emergency Fund Collection at all Holiday Services

#### December 19, 2021

\*10 am - Annual Solstice Service

*Tomten and the Fox*

\*4 pm - Annual Holiday Vespers Service

*Be Ye Lamplights in the Darkness*

#### Friday, December 24, 2021

\*7 pm - Annual Christmas Eve Service

*The Promise of Peace*

#### \*Sunday, December 26

*A Christmas Kahoot! - On Zoom Only!*

### THE OFFERING - LAST WEEK

*Sunday, Dec. 5 pledges* = \$1,835.00  
*FY2022 Pledges to date* = \$88,775.00  
*Budgeted FY2022 Pledges to date* = \$83,125.00

*Sunday, Dec. 5 offering* = \$168.00  
*FY2022 offering to date* = \$4,337.53  
*Budgeted FY2022 offering to date* = \$2,143.17

### Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

90 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01606

(508) 853-1942 · [office@uucworchester.org](mailto:office@uucworchester.org)

[www.uucworchester.org](http://www.uucworchester.org)

### TEXT ALERTS FROM UUCW

TEXT ALERTS from UUCW are now being offered. In case of cancellation of Worship/RE or other events, you can receive alerts on your smartphone. To sign up, text UUCWORCESTER to 84483. Please note that carrier SMS fees may apply.