



Believing in a community that unites all people

Prelude *Seasonal Selections*
 Music Director Matthew Johnsen, Piano
 Jesu Bambino arr. Peitro Yon
 Mark Schlesinger, French Horn; Dianne Mann, Soprano

Welcome Anya Sweetser

Tolling of the Bell and Moment of Silence

Opening Words *In the Hush of Winter* Rev. Margaret Gifford

Musical Interlude *Angels We Have Heard on High*
UUCW Bell Ensemble

Reveling in the Light Part I

Duet *Starlight, Star Bright* arr. Pete Seeger
Rachel & Samantha Wagner

Reveling in the Light Part II

Carol *Oh Christmas Tree*

Reveling in the Light Part III

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Cheryl Leshay

Musical Meditation *Silent Night* UUCW Bell Ensemble

Offertory *Snowman* Deb Bonneau, Pianist
arr. Howard Blake

Reveling in the Light Part IV

Lighting the Yule Log

Carrie Reid-Knox, Tommy Blanchard, Simon & Milo

Choral Anthem *Ocho Candlikas* arr. Jacobson

Reveling in the Light Part V

Carol Sing Mara Pentlarge, Flute; Mark Schlesinger, French Horn
Wassail *We Three Kings*
Deck the Halls *Jingle Bells*
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*

Reveling in the Light Part VI

Choral Anthem *When All The Peoples of the Earth*
arr. Betty Jo Angebrannt

UPCOMING & HOLIDAY 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
(Lay-led services from Jan 5 - April 13)

Wednesday, December 24

7 pm: Annual Christmas Eve Service
A Holy Presence

Sunday, December 28

*Can a Science Flood Story Inspire Us as
Much as the One by Noah? OR How
Long Can You Tread Water?*
Guest Speaker Stephen Ledoux

Sunday, January 4

That's A Great Question: Annual Ask the Minister Sunday

Welcome to Vespers!

From Merriam-Webster:

Main Entry: ves·pers

Pronunciation: \ 'ves-pərz \

Function: noun plural but singular or plural in construction

Usage: often capitalized

Etymology: Anglo-French *vespres*, from Medieval Latin *vesperae*, from Latin, plural of *vespera*, evening; akin to Latin *vesper*, evening star

1 : the sixth of the canonical hours
that is said or sung in the late
afternoon

2 : a service of evening worship

The UUCW Definition: A special evening service before Christmas where we celebrate our special community and connection in the spirit of the holiday season!

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after Vespers for our annual Vespers Tea!

Reveling in the Light Finale

Choral Anthem

Candlelight Carol arr. John Rutter

✳ **Candlelighting Ceremony** Rev. Aaron Payson & Robin Mitzcavitch, Director of Religious Exploration
Silent Night / Night of Silence words and music by Daniel Kantor

As the choir sings "Night of Silence", the candles will be lit. At the signal from the Minister, you are invited to sing verse one of Silent Night. Then hum through once, then sing verse one again.

*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.*



Benediction

Rev. Aaron Payson

Postlude

Seasonal Selections

✳ Please stand in body or spirit

Thank You Notes

We would like to thank our wonderful musicians for sharing their talents with us!

*Matthew Johnsen, Music Director, Piano
Deb Bonneau, Piano
Mara Pentlarge, Flute
Mark Schlesinger, French Horn*

The UUCW Choir:

Sopranos: *Dawn Doud, Rev. Cheryl Leshay,
Dianne Mann, Shirley Traite
& Rachel Wagner*
Altos: *Andrea Cruz, Cathy McDonagh,
EJ Neal, Laura Rosbach, Moira Rouse,
Angela St. Laurent, & Fran Schlesinger*
Tenors: *Ken Basye, John Brooks,
Mark Schlesinger & David Schowalter*
Basses: *Kim McCoy & Margos Stone*

The UUCW Bell Ensemble:

*Kathy Nagy, Director
Nelly Case Cristina Heffernan
Matthew Johnsen Sherri Lee
Meredith Neuman Laura Rosbach
Andrew Wilkin*

SERVICE NOTES

Thanks to our Service Volunteers:

In Person Audio Team:

Betty Jenewin, Paul Marr,
& Frank Sweetser

Online Hospitality:

Dawn Doud & Rev. Cheryl Leshay

Church Photographer:

Betty Jenewin

Greeter & Connection Team:

Beth Posner-Waldron, Emily Stolarski
& Evan Wilson

May you all have very
happy and healthy holidays!



Oh Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!

Not only green in summer's heat,
But also winter's snow and sleet.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely;

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely.

Each year you bring to us delight

With brightly shining Christmas light!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
Of all the trees most lovely.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
We learn from all your beauty;

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
We learn from all your beauty.

Your bright green leaves with festive cheer,
Give hope and strength throughout the year.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
We learn from all your beauty.

Wassail

Chorus: Wassail, wassail, all over the town
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee

So here is to Cherry and to his right cheek
Pray God send out master a good piece of beef
And a good piece of beef that we all may see
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee

Chorus

And here is to Dobbin and to his right eye
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie
And a good Christmas pie that we may all see
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee

Chorus

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Fa la la la la, la la la la (fa la la la la, la la la la)
'Tis the season to be jolly
Fa la la la la, la la la la (fa la la la la, la la la la)
Don we now our gay apparel
Fa la la la la, la la la la (fa la la la la, la la la la)
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol
Fa la la la la, la la la la
See the blazing yule before us
Fa la la la la, la la la la (fa la la la la, la la la la)
Strike the harp and join the chorus
(Fa la la la la, la la la, fa la la la la, la la la)
Follow me in merry measure
Fa la la la la, la la la la, fa la la la la, la la la la
While I tell of Yuletide treasure
(Fa la la la la, la la la la)
Fast away, the old year passes
Fa la la la la, la la la la (fa la la la la, la la la la)
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
(Fa la la, la la la, la la la, la la la, fa la la, la la la,
la la la la)
Sing we joyous all together, oh
Heedless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la, la la la la (hey)

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight, oh!

Chorus: Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young
Take the girls tonight
Sing this sleighing song
Get a bobtailed bay
Two forty for his speed
And hitch him to an open sleigh
And you will take the lead

Chorus

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,
you know Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen,
But do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all!

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say,
Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight

Then how all the reindeer loved him,
As they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the red-nose Reindeer
You'll go down in history

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas (x2)
We wish you a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding (x3)
And bring it right here

Chorus: Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
We won't go until we get some (x3)
So bring it right here

Chorus
We all like our figgy pudding (x3)
With all its good cheers

Chorus
We wish you a merry Christmas (x2)
We wish you a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

Holiday Poinsettias Given for 2025

Claire Breyton
~ In Loving Memory of
Anne and Alain Breyton

Cheryl Downs
~ In Loving Memory of
my late husband Charlie Downs

Mary Fitton
~ In Loving Memory of
**Helen and Jeremiah Fitton
and Leonard and Hazel Cottis**

Nancy Hancock
~ In Loving Memory of
John & Birget Patterson

Cris Heffernan
~ In Loving Memory of
Lois Allen Lindquist Woll

Carole Howe
~ In Loving Memory of
Maggie & Don Howe

Emily Konstan
~ In Loving Memory of
Michaelann Bewsee

Rev. Cheryl Leshay
~ To **My Elders,**
Past Present and Future

Paul Marr
~In Honor of **Friends and Family**

Cathy McDonagh
~ For **My Parents**

Melissa McKeon & Annie Colby McKeon
~ In Loving Memory of
**Our Mom and Grandma
Madeleine McKeon**

Debbie Merrill & Ken Basye
~In Loving Memory of
**Our Fathers, Jay Merrill and
Dr. Charles Basye**

Linda Morse
~ In Loving Memory of
**Elizabeth Angel and
With Love to Lucile**

Kim Napoleone
~ In Loving Memory of
Sharon Templeman

Mary Paradiso
~ In Loving Memory of **Jay Janell**

Linda Rich
~ In Loving Memory of
Rosemary & Jim Rich

Nancy Freiberg Robertson
~ In Loving Memory of
Jonathan Mathis

***People who contributed to the Flower Fund are welcome to take a
poinsettia home with them after the Vespers Service.***

Holiday Poinsettias Given for 2025

Ruth Silver

~ In Great Appreciation of
Maya Desai and Ann Hollander
for their Dedication to our
Afgan Families

The Trowbridge Family

~ In Loving Memory Of
Micah McManus

Beth Posner Waldron

~In Loving Memory of
Gladys and Paul Gustafson
and Jane Ohman

Evan Wilson

~ In Loving Memory of
Bill and Lois Wilson



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