



# Order of Christmas Eve Service for Sunday, December 24, 2023

*Believing in a community that unites all people*

Prelude *Seasonal Selections*  
Music Director Matthew Johnsen

Lighting the Christmas Flame Rev. Cheryl Leshay

Solo *I Wonder As I Wander* Dawn Doud, Soprano  
arr. John Jacob Niles

Welcome & Opening Words Rev. Aaron Payson

\* Carol #225 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Responsive Affirmation #619

Solo *Minuet Chretians* arr. A. Adams  
Rev. Aaron Payson

Ancient Reading *Luke 1:26-38*

Carol *The First Noel* The Wagner Family

Contemporary Reading *Entrances & Exits* by Mary Szybist

Offertory *Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep* Deb Bonneau, Piano  
by Irving Berlin

Pastoral Prayer

Musical Meditation Carrick McCullough, Piano

Ancient Reading *Luke 2:1-20*

Carol #244 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Contemporary Reading *The House of Christmas* by G.K. Chesterton

Reflection *Candlelight and Mysterious Moments*  
Rev. Aaron Payson

Solo *I'll Be Home for Christmas* Rachel Wagner, Soprano  
lyrics by K. Gannon, arr. W. Kent

## 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

**Sunday, December 31**  
*Becoming Good Ancestors*  
Guest Speaker Rev. Jennifer Innis

**Sunday, January 7**  
*Annual Ask the Minister Service -*  
*Who's Got A Question?*

**Sunday, January 14**  
New Member Sunday  
*Take My Hand...Lead Me On*

**Sunday, January 21**  
Guest Speaker Rev. Mark Nilson

**Sunday, January 28**  
*Filling a Spiritual Backpack*  
*for Hard Times*  
Guest Speaker Rev. Jo Murphy, UU  
Mass Action



## Candlelighting Ceremony words by Lisa Rubin (adapted)

As the choir sings "Dona Nobis Pacem" candles will be lit in the congregation. When prompted by the minister, the congregation is invited to stand and sing "Silent Night" in German, then hum through once, and sing again in English.

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht  
Alles schläft, ensam wacht  
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lокkigen Harr,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

*Shtil-leh nockt, hai-lee-geh nockt  
Ah-less shlayft, ine-zahm vockt  
Noor dahss trow-teh hoke-hie-lee-geh par  
Hole-dair knah-beh eem loh-kee-gehm har  
Shlahf een him-lih-share rue  
Shlahf een him-lih-share rue*

*iNoche de paz, noche de amor!  
Todo duerme en derredor;  
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,  
brilla la estrella de paz,  
brilla la estrella de paz.*

*Noh-che deh pahs, Noh-che deh-ah-mohr  
Toh-doh dweh-meh en deh-reh-dohr  
en-treh lohs ah-stohs keh ehs-pahr-sen soo loos  
beh-lah ah-noon-see-yahn-doh ahl neenyeetoh Heh-soos  
bree-yah lah ehs-treh-yah deh pahs  
bree-yah lah ehs-treh-yah deh pahs*

*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

### Postlude

### Seasonal Selections

\* Please stand in body or spirit

## UUCW Activity Calendar December 24 - 31

### Sunday, December 31 - Multi-Platform Worship at 10 am

**Holiday Office Hours:** The church office will be closed for the entire week between Christmas and New Years Day, from December 22 – January 1. For any pastoral or building related emergencies please call 508-853-1942 ext 108 (or press 6 during the initial voicemail message). Rev Payson can also be reach at minister@uucworchester.org, or 508-853-1942 ext. 103.

Please visit the Church Calendar for more events by going to the website at [www.uucworchester.org](http://www.uucworchester.org), or scan the QR box with your smartphone!

