



All Souls NYC

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

7 P^M



All Souls is an open and welcoming religious community that nurtures possibilities and builds connections to forge redemptive change in ourselves, our city, and our world.

Welcome to All Souls NYC!

...a community for spiritual growth, justice and service

Feeling inspired by community & connection? Wondering how to join with us in our effort to transform our lives and the world around us? Grab a coffee or tea with Spiritual Care and Membership Manager Gretchen Gabrielson to learn more. You can best be connected to Gretchen by email at gretchen@allsoulsnyc.org. We are eager to know who you are and journey together in 2026 & beyond!

For more information: allsoulsnyc.org

Children are a cherished part of our congregation, and their presence brings joy to our worship. We understand that they may sometimes make noise, and that's absolutely okay. There is seating and a live feed of the service in the Vestibule if you need to step out for any reason. There are also Chalice Bags available for sign-out in the Vestibule with quiet, mess-free activities. Nursery Care for children aged 6-months to 5-years-old is available during the service in the Chapel.

Accessibility and Privacy Information

We want our services to be inclusive and welcoming. For those who need hearing assistance, we offer Bluetooth connectivity for hearing aids and headphones that connect to smartphones (detailed instructions available in the vestibule - just ask an usher or staff member!). The first row of pews has dedicated speakers that provide clearer sound with minimal echo. We will alert you if unusual sounds or lights will be a part of the service. Our services are filmed and livestreamed online and you may appear briefly on camera. If you would not like to be on camera, please sit in the back three rows.

Spiritual Care

When you or someone you love is in need of a helping hand or a listening ear, the All Souls Spiritual Care ministry provides emotional and spiritual care from our ministers, our Manager of Spiritual Care, and our Caring Connections Team. To request support, please email Gretchen@AllSoulsNYC.org.



ONLINE PORTAL



PAYPAL|VENMO|APPLE PAY

ZELLE
info@allsoulsnyc.org

*Make a gift or
contribution to the
offering!*

Order of Service

December 24, 2025

7 p.m.

“I would not have this season pass away until I see a star in strange light;
And a green tree on a hill.
Until my candle burns in ecstasy against the loneliness and dark;
Until I hear a sobbing and a song, until I find an altar still and bare
Where I may leave my offering- and my prayer”

Rev. Elaine Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister
Gretchen Joy Gabrielson, Spiritual Care and Membership Manager
Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, Director of Music
Trent Johnson, Assistant Director of Music
All Souls Choir
Chelsea Lane, harp

Service Music from A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28
by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Greensleeves
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

WELCOME

Rev. Elaine Perseluha

CALL TO WORSHIP

1. Procession

*Today Christ is born: the Saviour has appeared:
Today angels sing on earth: Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous exult, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

Anon. 14th Century text

2. Wolcum Yole!

*Wolcum, Wolcum, Wolcum be thou hevenè king,
Wolcum Yole! Wolcum, born in one morning,
Wolcum for whom we sall sing!
Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,
Wolcum, Innocentes every one,
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,
Wolcum be ye, good Newe Yere,
Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere,
Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere,
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!
Candelmesse, Quene of bliss,
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.
Wolcum, Wolcum, Wolcum be ye that are here,
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum alle and make good cheer,
Wolcum alle another yere, Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!*

Anon. 14th Century text

CHALICE LIGHTING

Gretchen Joy Gabrielson

CALL TO CHRISTMAS

CAROL

O Come All Ye Faithful

O Come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant
Oh come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
Born the king of angels.
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus, Dominum.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! Love was born from Mary's womb;
Very God, among us, love incarnate:
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus, Dominum.

Sing, choir of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God in the highest:
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus, Dominum.

Yea, now we greet thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Spirit, now in flesh appearing;
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus, Dominum.

READING

ANTHEM

3. There is No Rose

*There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia, alleluia.
For in this rose containèd was heaven and earth in litel space,
Res miranda, res miranda. (miraculous thing)
By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three,
Pares forma, pares forma, (in the parent's image)
The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus, gaudeamus. (we rejoice)
Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus. (we follow)
Alleluia, res miranda, pares forma, gaudeamus,
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus.*

Anon. 14th Century text

PRAYER

ANTHEM 4a and 4b. That Yongë Childe and Balulalow

Erinn Sensenig, soprano

*That yongë child when it gan weep with song she lulled him asleep:
That was so sweet a melody it passèd alle minstrelsy.
The nightingalë sang also: Her song is hoarse . . . and nought thereto:
Whoso attendeth to her song and leaveth the first . . . then doth he wrong.*

Anon. 14th Century text

*O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit, Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee to my hert, And never mair from thee depart.
But I sall praise thee evermoir With sanges sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow, And sing that richt Balulalow.*

James, John & Robert Wedderburn, 16th Century

READING

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains, in reply, echoing their joyful strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
 What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid, whom the angels praise above;
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

OFFERTORY

5. As dew in Aprille

*I sing of a maiden that is makèles:
 King of all kings to her son she ches.
 He came also stille there his moder was
 As dew in Aprille that falleth on the grass.
 He came also stille to his moder's bour
 As dew in Aprille that falleth on the flour.
 He came also stille there his moder lay
 As dew in Aprille that falleth on the spray.
 Moder and maiden was never none but she:
 Well may such a lady Goddes moder be.*

Anon. 14th Century

6. This little Babe

*This little Babe so few days old, is come to rifle Satan's fold;
 All hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold do shake;
 For in this weak unarmed wise the gates of hell he will surprise.
 With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield;
 His battering shot are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
 His martial ensigns Cold and Need, and feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.
 His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall;
 The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes; of shepherds he his muster makes;
 And thus, as sure his foe to wound, the angels' trumps alarum sound.
 My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; stick to the tents that he hath pight.
 Within his crib is surest ward; this little Babe will be thy guard.
 If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly Boy*

Robert Southwell (1561- 1595)

8. In Freezing Winter Night

Caitlin Caruso Dobbs, mezzo-soprano
Nathan Siler, tenor

*Behold, a silly tender babe, in freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies. Alas, a piteous sight!
The inns are full; no man will yield this little pilgrim bed.
But forced he is with silly beasts in crib to shroud his head.
This stable is a Prince's court, this crib his chair of State;
The beasts are parcel of his pomp, the wooden dish his plate.
The persons in that poor attire his royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself is come from heaven; this pomp is prized there.
With joy approach, O Christian wight, do homage to thy King,
And highly praise his humble pomp, wich he from Heaven doth bring.*

Robert Southwell (1561- 1595)

HOMILY

Rev. Elaine Peresluha

CHORAL RESPONSE

9. Spring Carol

Anna Aistova, soprano
Erinn Sensenig, soprano

*Pleasure it is to hear iwis, the Birdes sing,
The deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale, the corn springing.
God's purveyance for sustenance, It is for man, it is for man.
Then we always to give him praise, And thank him than.*

William Cornish, (1465 - 1523)

10. Deo Gracias

*Deo gracias! Deo gracias!
Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not to long.
Deo gracias! Deo gracias!
And all was for an appil, an appil that he tok,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Deo gracias! Deo gracias!
Ne had the appil take ben, the appil take ben,
Ne hadde never our lady a ben hevene quene.
Blessed be the time that appil take was.
Therefore we moun singen.
Deo gracias! Deo gracias! Deo gracias! Deo gracias!*

Anon. 15th Century

TRADITIONAL UNITARIAN CANDLELIGHTING

CAROL #251

Silent Night, Holy Night

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 "Alluluaia,"
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Child of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

RECESSIONAL

11. Recessional

*Today Christ is born: the Saviour has appeared:
Today angels sing on earth: Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous exult, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

CLOSING WORDS

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella
Trad. arr. Keith Chapman (1945-1989)

Traditional Unitarian Universalist Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service

The origins of this traditional Unitarian Universalist candle lighting service can be traced to the early 1900's in New England and to much earlier antecedents in Europe.

"The light of the Ages", the Universal Light of Love is represented which animates all of life and the universe is an understanding foundational to our Universalist heritage. The understanding of Jesus as a human being, who demonstrated the fullness of human potential, is at the heart of our Unitarian heritage. Both traditions are represented in the lighting of our chalice and are celebrated in this candlelight service.

The first candle to be lit represents the baby Jesus. The lights of Love and justice shone brightly in the life of Jesus, inspiring people everywhere to shine this same light brightly in their lives. The first candle is traditionally lit by the youngest child in our congregation.

From the Jesus candle, the light is passed to a row of candles representing his disciples and followers. These candles are lit by individuals committed to the calling of the ministry or congregational leadership. The light is then passed to a row of candles representing teachers and parents who continue to pass the light of wisdom and compassion to succeeding generation. These candles are lit by parents and volunteers in our Lifespan Faith Formation programs.

The Light is then passed to a row of candles representing the children of the world. Our youth who will be the keepers of this sacred flame. These candles are lit by the children and youth of the congregation, our hope for the future. They carry Light to the four corners of the congregation where it is spread candle by candle, heart by heart throughout the sanctuary. When the entire Church is filled with Light, the candles are raised illuminating the sanctuary with our faith and commitment to this Eternal flame, The Light of Love.

All Souls Choir
Christmas Eve 2025

Soprano

Anna Aistova*
Elizabeth Clancy
Mary Esbjornson
Carla Geisser
Kathryn McCreary*
Erinn Sensenig*
Reldalee Wagner
Kate Wolfe Johnson

Alto

Caitlin Caruso Dobbs*
Rodolfo Girón*
Kate Katigbak
Camille Labarre
Natalie Lebert
Emily Mikesell
Andrew Taylor-Troup*
Laura Villanueva

Tenor

Bill Andrews
Shawn Bartels*
Juan Hernández*
Nathan Siler*

Bass

Aidan Esbjornson
Nick Hay*
Matt Mueller*
Harold Norris
Christopher Rothko
John Verkuilen*
Paul Whelan*
Augustus Young

**denotes section leader*

Our poinsettias are possible thanks to generous contributions from our community.

For Treva Davis, Suzanne
& Bernie May, and David
Remember Baker who
loved these services.

Lois Avery Gaeta

In loving memory of my
mother Ruth, my grandmother
Fannie, my brother David, and
in honor of my niece Kim.
Beautiful in so many ways.

Zoe Stolbun

In honor of the life, love and light
of Milan Lora: esposo, papá,
abuelo y artista. (1937-2024)

Maria Lora Braswell

For good health for all those
suffering illness

Mary Dugan

For All Souls

Christopher Lawrence

In loving memory of Curtis and
Mary Mikkelsen and Bill Halford.
Erika Mikkelsen and Michael Halford

In memory of Marilyn Scott Murphy
the most generous person I knew who
loved All Souls, this congregation and
who especially loved Christmas Eve at
AS. You are greatly missed.

Love, Tara

In honor of Marilyn Scott
Murphy and her inspiring "All
Souls, All The Time" attitude.

Rachel Ziemba

In memory of Marilyn Scott Murphy

Chalice Circle Group

In honor of Marilyn Scott
Murphy and George Dorsey
Heather, Victor, and Lucas

In memory of Betty & Schuyler Chapin

Miles Chapin

For my family

Amy

In memory of Jesse Keiser

Allyn Keiser

In Gratitude

Shu-Wie Chen

In memory of four amazing women and
beloved colleagues,
Jane Furse Friedman
Evelynn "Lynn" Gioiella
Suzanne May
and Marilynn Scott Murphy,
from the Board of the Annie Eaton Society.

In memory of George Collins,
with Love from Marilyn, Dana, and Pine

In memory of Kenneth L. Hunt and Lois Rice
Hunt, who were married on December 24th, 1925.
Alynne and Nora

In loving memory of Leonard and Rosaria
Frisaro. From their loving daughter Rosemary
Frisaro-Kessler, Brian Kessler and beloved
grandchildren. Forever in our hearts.
Brian and Rosemary Frisaro-Kessler

In memory of my great guy and husband,
Thomas Francis Sullivan. He always BELIEVED.
Gail Triggs

In memory of Mimi, a very special person
Tom Towell

With gratitude this Christmas to our church staff, whose faithful
work and quiet dedication bless our community every day
Tom & Heli Blum

For Jane McDonough in heaven from Jane Johnson on Earth
Kate Wolfe Johnson

In loving memory of Felix and Clary Dunsten, beloved grandparents
Dan and Marietta Moskin, beloved parents
Linda and Jim Moskin

To Sister Eileen Fuchs, for the times you texted me "I love you,"
and I didn't bother to respond, and now you're gone: I love you.
Elizabeth Fuchs

To Mema, who loved a sequined leotard and a spotlight,
and always took good care of me.
Elizabeth Fuchs

In memory of Bartholomew Verdirame -
you are always in our hearts.
Carol and Elan Gerstmann

In memory of Elizabeth and
Gunnar Ekberg, John T Jordan
and George L Wing.
Sandra Ekberg

In memory of Luis Osorio, May
Amella, Charles Sofge, and
Mercedes Díaz
Marisa Osorio & Neal Sofge

In memory of our beloved Thom Fogarty
Flo & Mary Ann Fogarty-Yee

In memory of Haseena Charles
Barbara and Everold Hosein

In memory of my darling
husband, Brian Donovan
Ellen Kanner

In memory of Rev. Wally Argow
"Uncle Wally"
Kate Harris & David Thut

In memory of Felix Carragher
Jenny Carragher

In memory of Klaus Winter,
Love Never Ends
Aracy Winter

From Emily Predmore

From Andrew Karlin

In memory of Joey
Barbara Silverstone

From Jean and Neal Coleman

From Lauren and Andrew McIntyre

All Souls NYC

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Jennifer Vermont Davis

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Email the Board of Trustees at **Board@AllSoulsNYC.org**
Send suggestions to staff at **info@AllSoulsNYC.org**

The lines are always open. We want to hear from you!

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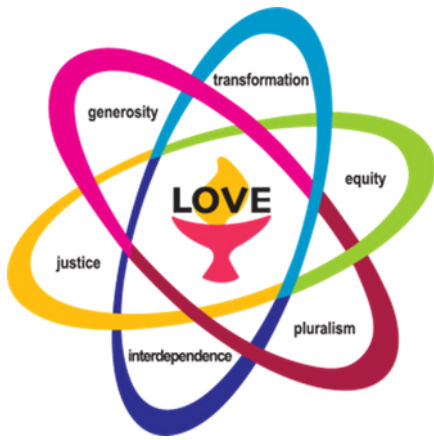
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Shared Values (2024)

We draw from many sources and traditions. We acknowledge that spiritual beliefs are ever-changing, and it is an ongoing experience of Unitarian Universalism to attempt to define these beliefs. This is the “Love at the Center” model, summarized below.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We covenant to practice:

- **Justice**, we work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive;
- **Equity**, we declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion;
- **Transformation**, we adapt to the changing world;
- **Pluralism**, we celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology;
- **Interdependence**, we honor the interdependent web of all existence;
- **Generosity**, we cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

The 7 Principles (1985)

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.