



All Souls NYC

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

December 24, 2025

4 PM

Welcome to All Souls NYC!

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



Chalice Bags available for sign-out in the vestibule with quiet, mess-free activities for use in the sanctuary. 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 but we hope you know your children are welcome here at All Souls.

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

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



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ZELLE
info@allsoulsnyc.org

*Make a gift or
contribution to the
offering!*

Guide to Service



Chalice Lighting

Unitarian Universalist congregations all over the world light a chalice to affirm our free Faith



Opening Words & Welcome

Special Words to start our time together



Singing

Singing together connects us to each other and what we hold in our hearts



Offertory

The people of the church share money to make a difference in the world



Homily

A Speaker shares something important from their heart



Closing Prayer

A special Blessing for each of us to carry in our hearts

Order of Service

December 24, 2025

4 p.m.

“I am a living member of the great family of all souls.”
~ William Ellery Channing

Rev. Jessica Hess, Director of Lifespan Faith Formation
Rev. Elaine Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister
Trent Johnson, Assistant Director of Music
Erinn Sensenig, soprano
Nathan Siler, tenor

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE



WELCOME



CHALICE LIGHTING

CAROL

Let Christmas Come

1 Let Christmas come, its story told,
when days are short and winds are
cold; let Christmas come, its lovely
song, when evening's soon and the
night is long.

2 Let Christmas come, its great star
glow, on quiet city, parks of snow;
let Christmas come, its table gleam,
love born again: the truth of the
dream

STORY Part 1

CAROL

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth.
Let praises ring: from God they bring
goodwill to all on earth.

STORY Part 2

ANTHEM

STORY Part 3

O' Little Town of Bethlehem

3 How silently, how silently
the wonder is made known,
when God imparts to human hearts
the gift that is our own.
No ear may hear that coming,
but in this worldly din,
when souls are truly humble,
then the dear babe rests within.

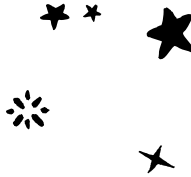


Jingle Bells
James Pierpont

OFFERTORY

Once in Royal David's City

STORY Part 4



CAROL

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! the Word is come:
let earth with praises ring.
Let every heart prepare a room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground.
Let righteousness its glories show
as far as love is found,
as far as love is found,
as far, as far, as love is found.

2 Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns:
let hearts their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

STORY Part 5

HOMILY

PASSING THE LIGHT

CLOSING PRAYER



CAROL



Silent 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!
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.

POSTLUDE

Join us for Religious Education Programming in 2026!

Adult and Children & Youth Religious Education programming will resume in the New Year. Sundays at 11:15 am are for Families at All Souls. Our Sunday Children & Youth programs are for ages six months through age 18 and are based in the values of interdependence, generosity, pluralism, justice, equity, transformation with love at the center. Adult programming returns also on Jan. 4 at 10 am with Word of the Year as Spiritual Practice. Whether you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism or connect with other families, there is something for everyone. All are welcome.

Contact Jessica@allsoulsnyc.org to learn more.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Chalice Lighting Words from RE

We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian Universalism

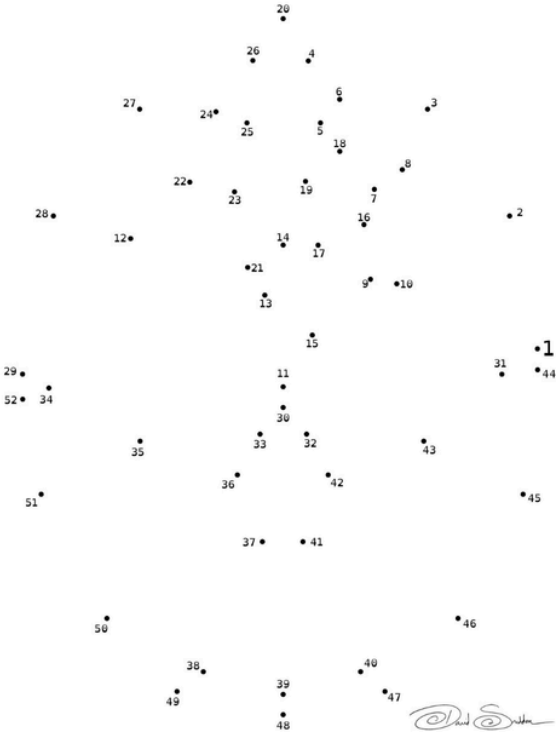
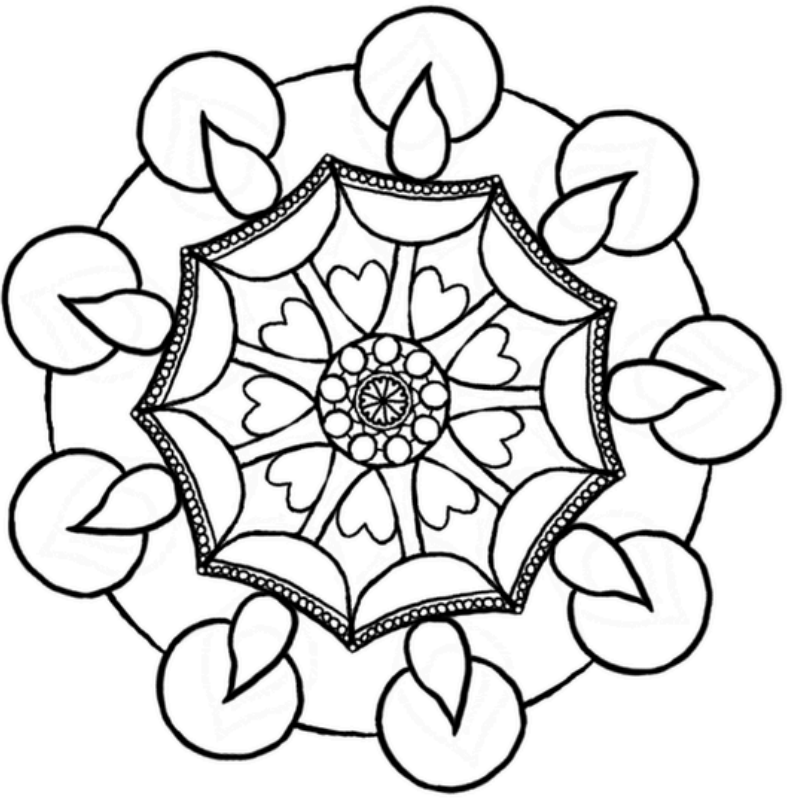
This is the church of the open mind

This is the church of the helping hands

This is the church of the loving heart

Together we work for peace, justice
and equity in our world.

***The candles are yours to take home. Turn the page
for some UU and winter themed activities!***





All Souls NYC

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Scan the code to
visit our website!



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Here are ways you can send us your comments, concerns, questions (and praise!) about All Souls.

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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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.