

Winchester Unitarian Society

Order of Service

December 24th - 4:00 PM

Community Greeting

Ringing of the Bell The bell that calls us to worship is a gift from our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania.

Prelude *A Child is Born*, by Thad Jones

John Kramer

Welcome and Opening Words

The Rev. Heather Janules

***Carol** *O Come All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lo, humble shepherds, hasting to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.
We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps;
O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God in the highest":
O come, let us adore him...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,
O come, let us adore him...

*Please rise in body or spirit

Chalice Lighting and Lighting of the Advent Candles

Dedication Inspired by Words by Dan Lambert

Lesson The Old Story, Forever New: Part One

Brenna Mayer

***Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (2x)

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (2x)

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (2x)

Lesson The Old Story, Forever New: Part Two

Brenna Mayer

***Carol** *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

(Chorus) O Star of wonder, star of light, Star, with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us through this perfect night.

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
love forever, ceasing never, in our hearts to reign.
(Chorus)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
(Chorus)

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
love forever, ceasing never, in our hearts to reign.
(Chorus)

Offering

This evening, we share our gifts with our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania. Unless otherwise designated, all contributions will be shared with their congregation. Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically. Text GIVE to (781) 230-6690 or visit www.tinyurl.com/wusgiveonline

Offertory *Gift of Light and Love*, John Kramer Kirsten Hart, Solo

Prayer "This is a Holy Night" by Debra Haffner (Adapted)

The Candle Lighting Ceremony

As you light candles, please keep these tips in mind: if your candle is unlit, tip it into the flame of the candle next to you. After your candle is lit, hold it upright and steady, keeping it away from anything that might catch fire.

Carol *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 "Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the savior, is born!"

Silent night, holy night, son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***Carol**

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove,
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

A Christmas Blessing
(Adapted)

From "Amazing Peace" by Maya Angelou

Postlude

Joy Fantasy

John Kramer

Please remain seated for the Postlude and the Extinguishing of the Chalice

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again. - Elizabeth Selle Jones

Please return your program cover and candle as you exit.

The Animals are our gift to you...

Thank you...and Merry Christmas!

Serving This Evening

Brenna Mayer, *Religious Education Coordinator* ·

The Rev. Heather Janules, Parish Minister ·

John Kramer, *Director of Music* · Jay Kwan, *Livestream Coordinator*

Ushers: Ryan Levering, Jeanne Johnson, Michelle Johnson,

Rebecca Vernaglia and Larkin Gardinier

This is a Welcoming Congregation, intentionally welcoming and affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Each worship service includes wisdom or an artistic gift from people or communities-of-color