

Winchester Unitarian Society

Order of Service

December 24th - 4:00 PM

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo, J.S. Bach

John Kramer

Welcome and Opening Words

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

***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...

Chalice Lighting

"Fellow Sojourners" by Dan Lambert

Maya, Max, Luna, and Brett Mulder

Lesson

The Old Story, Forever New: Part One

Brenna Mayer

*Please rise in body or spirit

***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.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all are raising, worship God most high. (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)

Lesson

The Old Story, Forever New: Part Three

Brenna Mayer

***Carol**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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.

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.

Offering

All gifts placed in our offering plates tonight will go to “Asociația Gondviselés Segélyszervezet”, also known as the “Providence Charity Organization,” which is the official charity arm of the Hungarian Unitarian Church in Romania.

Gondviselés has been a major responder to the war in Ukraine, distributing essential provisions like food, hygiene items, and medical supplies to refugees in Romania and directly to hospitals within Ukraine (e.g., in Odesa and Mykolaiv regions).

The organization provides comprehensive support to refugees, including housing and basic needs, education and integration, psychosocial services, and engaging refugees as volunteers to help new arrivals.

Offertory

Noél, Gabriel Faure

Cailin Smith, solo

Prayer

“The Moment of Magic” by Victoria Safford

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.

Benediction

Postlude *When Jesus was Born on Christmas, Claude Balbastre*
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 candle as you exit.

The animals are our gift to you...

Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Serving This Evening

Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education Coordinator* ·

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Interim Minister · John Kramer, *Director of Music* ·

Jason Tran, *Livestream Coordinator*

Ushers: Patty Cameron and Beth Knipstein

This is a Welcoming Congregation, intentionally welcoming and affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.