

Order of Service
December 14, 2025

"Give them, not hell, but hope and courage."

Prelude

Romanian Folk Dances — Béla Bartók
1. Jocul cu băț

Welcome

Today in Religious Education & Greeting One Another

Kindling the Flame of Community

We light this chalice for the warmth of welcome, the light of hope, and the fire of service.

Opening Words

Pat Uribe-Lichty

Opening Hymn

Joy in the Morning

Lighting the Candles of the Advent Wreath

Rev. Lyn Cox

Time for All Ages

Wonder Box

Singing the Children to their Classes

Reeb's Children Benediction

Opportunities to Engage

Receiving the Offering

*½ Plate Recipient: [Blacksburg Refugee Partnership](#)
[Donate online](#), Text "Fund" to 844-909-2617, or use the Vanco Mobile App*

Offertory

"Kannah" — John Zorn

Accepting the Offering

Sharing Our Joys & Sorrows

submit your joy or sorrow to be read aloud [here](#)

Candles of Hope and Remembrance

Meditation

A Prayer for Hope, Rev. Christin Green

Meditation Hymn

#83 Winds Be Still

Reading

The Gates of Hope, Victoria Safford

Sermon

When Hope is Hard to Find

Closing Hymn

Come Hope: An Advent Round, Amanda Udis-Kessler

Benediction and Extinguishing Chalice

Postlude

"Tahah" — John Zorn

Minister: Rev. Pam Philips; Worship Associate: Britton Gildersleeve; Music Director: Jared Gibbs

Director of Lifespan Faith Development: Rachel Craine; LFD Assistant: Jocelyn Hildenbrand

Chalice Lighter: Patrick Quigley; RE Announcements: Patricia Wheaton

Songleader: Jennifer Thomas; Flowers: Bonnie Moreno

Sanctuary Greeters: Lisa Evanylo, Liz Craine, Rob Ingenito, Laura Robinson, Robin Cooley

Zoom Greeters: Vicki Mauer, Akiko Nakata, Bruce Turner

Our Mission

Inspire spiritual and ethical growth.

Create compassionate community.

Transform our community and the world through courageous love.

Land Acknowledgement:*The Tutelo/Monacan people are the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, live, and worship. We recognize their continuing connection to the land, water, and air that we consume. We pay respect to the Tutelo/Monacan Nations, and to their elders past, present, and emerging.*

UUC Covenant

We covenant to create a place of respect and kindness, and to build a spiritual community based on reason and courageous love.

We will listen to one another respectfully, assume good intentions, use the power of our words with care, express gratitude, honor our differences, help one another, and welcome all.

We will communicate directly, honestly, and compassionately. When we hurt one another, we will forgive, make amends, and re-connect.

While we celebrate the words of our Mission Statement, and of this covenant, we affirm that our mission lives through our actions.

Opportunities this Week

- Second Sunday Potluck, this Sunday after the service, bring a dish to share.
- Men's Breakfast, Monday at 7:00 am & Women's Breakfast, Monday at 7:30 am (UUC)
- Sages, Tuesday at 2:00 (Library)
- Surviving Spouses, Tuesday at 2:00 pm (Room 3/4)
- Inspired Elders, Tuesday 3:00pm - 4:30 pm (Room 6)
- Meditation, Tuesday at 5:00 pm ([Zoom](#))
- UUYA's - UU Young Adults, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Elarth)
- Conversations on our Faith, Wednesday at noon ([Zoom](#))
- Yoga, Wednesday at 5:30 pm (Elarth)
- Date with Death, Wednesday at 6:00 pm (Library)
- Writers Group, Thursday at 7:00 pm ([Zoom](#))
- Women's Lunch, Friday at noon (Library)
- Piecemakers, Saturday at 9:30 am (Library)
- Holiday Sampler Concert, Saturday at 7:00 (Sanctuary)