

**Order of Service**  
**December 17, 2023**

*Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day. ~Henri Nouwen*

**Sounding the Bowl**

**Prelude**

*Prelude in C Major, BWV 846, J.S. Bach*

**Welcome & Opportunities**

**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.*

**Lighting the Advent Candle**

*Rev. Lyn Cox*

**Opening Words**

**Opening Hymn**

*#253, O Come All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 3)*

**Interactive, No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant, written by Rev. Norman Allen**

**SCENE ONE:**

*"What's Up With That?"*

**Hymn**

*#246, O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 1)*

**SCENE TWO:**

*"You Try It!"*

**Hymn**

*#237, The First Nowell*

**Receiving the Offering**

*½ Plate Recipient: To Our House*

[Donate online](#), Text "Fund" to 844-909-2617, or use the Vanco Mobile App

**Offertory**

*Coventry Carol, Traditional*

**Sharing Our Joys & Sorrows**

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

**Candles of Hope and Remembrance**

**SCENE THREE:**

*"What's that Noise?"*

**Hymn**

*#239, Go Tell It on the Mountain!*

**SCENE FOUR:**

*"Talking with Angels"*

**Hymn**

*#231, Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1, 2)*

**SCENE FIVE:**

*"Hearts Full of Love"*

**Hymn**

*#245, Joy to the World*

**Benediction**

**Closing Music**

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, Marks/Longfellow*

Minister: Rev. Pam Philips; Director of Lifespan Faith Development: Rachel Craine

Piano: Jared Gibbs; Songleader: Paula Markham & Jane Mahone; Chalice Lighter:

A/V Tech: Lucas Machi; Flowers: Polly Stimson; Snacks: Lay Pastoral Care Ministry

Sanctuary Greeters: Judy Furr, Karen Holstein, Crosby Houston, Beth McClellan, Lisa Evanylo

Zoom Greeters: Akiko Nakata, Don Philyaw, KC Arceneaux

## **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**

- Buddy Project Participants Meet, Sunday after the service downstairs
- Sunday Circle: Carol Davis on Sustainability Priorities & Projects, Sunday at 11:30 a.m. (Library and [Zoom](#))
- Men's Breakfast, Monday at 7:00 am & Women's Breakfast, Monday at 7:30 am (UUC)
- Sages, Tuesday at 2:00 pm (Library)
- Inspired Elders, Tuesday 3:00pm - 4:30pm (Room 3)
- 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 (UUC)
- Choir Rehearsal, Wednesday at 7:00 pm (sanctuary)
- Women's Lunch, Friday at 12:00, UUC (contact [Cynthia Luke](#))
- NEXT SUNDAY -- Worship Service at 10:00 (Sanctuary & [Zoom](#))  
Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 (Sanctuary & [Zoom](#))