

Order of Service
December 24, 2023

“Mystery shimmers and shines in the world in even the darkest corners...” Kathleen McTeague

Sounding the Bowl

Prelude

“Every Morning, Birds” — Rachel Grimes

Welcome and Opportunities

Greeting One Another

Kindling the Flame of Community

We light this chalice, here in the darkness of winter as we wait. This temporary space is one filled with prayers to be answered, love to be given and received, miracles to be witnessed. May this light guide us until the light of the sun returns again

Congregational Covenant (next page)

Time for All Ages

Inviting the Elementals

Lighting the Advent Candle

Rev. Lyn Cox

Opening Words

The Determined Seed by Laura Wallace

Opening Hymn

The Coming of the Dawn
sung to the tune O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Solstice Reflection

The Mystery of the Dark, Earle Irwin

Receiving the Offering

½ Plate Recipient: [UNICEF](#)
[Donate online](#), Text “Fund” to 844-909-2617, or use the Vanco Mobile App

Offertory

“Buciumeana” — Bêla Bartók

Sharing Our Joys & Sorrows

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

Candles of Hope and Remembrance

Visual Meditation

Images from the James Webb Telescope

Reading/Ritual

“The Nourishing Dark,” Dick Gilbert

Benediction

Releasing the Elementals

Closing Hymn

#57 All Beautiful the March of Days

Postlude

“La fille aux cheveux de lin,” Claude Debussy

Minister: Rev. Pam Philips; Worship Associates: Victoria Taylor and Earle Irwin

Director of Lifespan Faith Development: Rachel Craine;

Piano: Jared Gibbs; Songleader: Wayne Neu; Chalice Lighter: It’s a Mystery; A/V Tech: Chris Long & Jim Kern

Sanctuary Greeters: Rami Steinruck (captain), Heather Nicholson, Janet Sawyers, Lisa Evanylo

Zoom Greeters: Akiko Nakata, Toni Cox

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

- Christmas Eve Service, Today at 5:00 pm (Sanctuary and [Zoom](#))
- NO Men's & Women's Breakfast, Monday due to the Holiday
- NO Surviving Spouses this Tuesday
- 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](#))
- NO Yoga, Wednesday at 5:30 pm (UUC)
- Choir Rehearsal, Wednesday at 7:00 pm (sanctuary)
- Craine Family Bash, Saturday 11:00-3:00 (Elarth, [information here](#))

