

Order of Service
December 31, 2023

The truth is that we are always moving towards mystery and so we are far closer to what is real when we do not see our destination clearly. ~Rachel Naomi Remen

Sounding the Bowl

Prelude

*Partita in Bb Major, BWV 825— J.S. Bach
I. Prelude*

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.

Opening Words

Coming Together at Year's End, Paul Vachon

Opening Hymn

#58, Ring Out, Wild Bells

Time for All Ages

Bridge of Flowers, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

UUC Choir

Joy in My Heart, Rollo Dilworth

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

Reflecting on the Past Year

Receiving the Offering

*½ Plate Recipient: UU Fellowship of Valdosta, Georgia
[Donate online](#), Text "Fund" to 844-909-2617, or use the Vanco Mobile App*

Offertory

*On an Overgrown Path — Leoš Janáček
I. Our Evenings*

Sharing Our Joys & Sorrows

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

Candles of Hope and Remembrance

Reading

It Matters, Robert Walsh

Ritual

Moving from this Year to Next

Musical Reflection

Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Responsive Reading

New Year's Day, Kathleen McTigue

Closing Hymn

#1028 The Fire of Commitment

Benediction

Neil Gaiman

Postlude

"Auld Lang Syne" — Robert Burns

Minister: Rev. Pam Philips; Worship Associate: Cynthia Baute

Director of Lifespan Faith Development: Rachel Craine;

Piano: Jared Gibbs; Choir Director: Ella Kromin; Songleader: Jane Mahone; Chalice Lighter:

A/V Tech: Lucas Machi; Flowers: Polly Stimson; Snacks: UUC Choir

Sanctuary Greeters: Pauletta Copenheaver, Crosby Houston, Judy Furr, Karen Holstein, Jim Copenheaver

Zoom Greeter: Akiko Nakata

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

- 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 noon (contact [Cynthia Luke](#))
- RE Teacher Training, Saturday at 9:00
- To Our House, Saturday - Saturday. [Sign up to help](#) provide meals and other necessities for our guests.