

Winchester Unitarian Society

Order of Service

December 24th - 4:00 PM

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.

A Christmas Blessing "I Will Light Candles This Christmas" (Adapted) by Howard Thurman

Postlude

Joy Fantasy

John Kramer

Please remain seated for the Postlude and the Extinguishing of the Chalice

Community Greeting

Ringing of the Bell The bell that calls us to worship is a gift from our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania.

Prelude

A Child is Born, by Thad Jones

John Kramer

Welcome and Opening Words

The Rev. Heather Janules

***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...

*Please rise in body or spirit

Chalice Lighting by Mary Shelden (Adapted) Dave, Becky, Abby and Cora McVey

Song *Carol of the Bells* Ukrainian Carol
WUS Children’s Chorus: Kirsten Hart, Director

Lesson The Old Story, Forever New 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.

Responsive Reading “All That Mattered” by Dan Schatz -

The night brought news of wonders –

*A star in the winter sky,
a sign and a promise.*

Shepherds from the hills
carried tales of angels
and songs of peace.

*Wise ones from distant lands,
following heavenly omens,
arrived with prophecies and gifts.*

And the young parents,
so far from home,
marveled in it all.

*So the stories tell,
and so we sing each year,*

but when a child’s first cry
pierced the midnight air

*all that mattered
was love.*

Offering

This evening, we share our gifts with our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania. Unless otherwise designated, all contributions will be shared with their congregation.

Offertory *O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion* G.F. Handel
Kirsten Hart, Solo

Meditation Heather Janules

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. Remember, the flame of your candle represents the light of love, passed through the ages.

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 program cover and candle as you exit.

The Animals are our gift to you...

Thank you...and Merry Christmas!

Serving This Evening

Brenna Mayer, *Religious Education Coordinator* · The Rev. Heather Janules, Parish Minister ·

John Kramer, *Director of Music*

Ushers: Sophia Sid, Ryan Levering, Erin Graham and Naomi Magnoni

Cover photo: A past WUS celebration of Christmas Eve

Interior photo: WUS Winter Solstice celebration, 2022

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

*Each worship service includes wisdom or an artistic gift
from people or communities-of-color.*