

Winchester Unitarian Society
Order of Service
Christmas Eve – 7:00 pm

Prelude *Sonata No. 1 in C Major, J.S. Bach* John Kramer

***Processional 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...

Invocation and Welcome The Rev. Heather Janules and Lee Barton

Chalice Lighting by Mary Shelden (Adapted) Joi and John Loewy,
Grandparents of Ayla Wren Orlando

A Reading From the Gospel Matthew 1 18-25 Peter McEntee

*Please rise in body or spirit

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

A Reading From the Gospel Luke 2 8-14 Martin Newhouse

***Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (2x)

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (2x)

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (2x)

A Reading From the Gospel Matthew 2 1-12 Ivan Correia

***Carol** *Go Tell it On the Mountain*

REFRAIN:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the baby's birth. REFRAIN

Down in a lowly manger the humble babe was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN

Reading "In Between" by Victoria Safford Lee Barton

Anthem *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Polish Carol, arr. J. Kramer

Homily *The Song We Sing* Heather Janules

Prayer

Song #1061 "For So the Children Come" by Sophia Lyon Fahs (Adapted) Teal Hymnal

Tonight, we celebrate the births of:

Sienna Rose Mohrbacher, child of Jonathan Mohrbacher and Melanie Anglars
Zelda Magpie Prokos, child of John Prokos, Jr. And Mika Burke
Ayla Wren Orlando, child of Laura Loewy and Joel Orlando

When invited to do so, please join in singing: "Each night a child is born is a holy night"

Final Verse:

"Each night a child is born is a holy night"

A time for singing,
a time for wondering,
a time for worshipping
Each night a child is born is a holy night"

Offering Martin Newhouse

All gifts placed in our offering plates tonight will benefit the ministries of our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory *A Child is Born*, Thad Jones Cheryl Medeiros-Nancarrow, solo

Offering Dedication by The Rev. Nagy László Heather Janules

We dedicate the offering with the English translation of Rev. Nagy's prayer, originally written in his native Hungarian:

Kedves Barátaink,
az elmúlt évben a világháború homályosította be ünnepeinket, ez évet a közelben dúló háború és annak szörnyűségei határozták meg.

De a karácsony mindenképpen fölött kell álljon. Az ünnepen, a régi háborúk idején is, elhallgattak a fegyverek s a front két oldalán álló katona családjára s a régi, békés emlékekre gondolt.

Mind a két oldalon azt szerették volna, ha béke lenne!

Ezt a mindenki által várt és szeretett békét kívánom Marosvásárhelyen és Winchesterben is.

A gyermek Jézus születésének örömét adja meg Isten minden keresztény embernek és legyünk együtt a zoltárban és az imádságban.

Gondoljunk egymásra, az emlékek tüntessék el a földi távolságokat és szépítsék meg ünnepünket.

Adjon Isten szép napokat és sikeres új esztendőt!
Barátsággal Nagy László és a marosvásárhelyi gyülekezet.

Reading "The Imperishable Flame" Lee Barton
by Max Kapp, adapted by the Rev. Charles Reinhardt, Minister Emeritus

Bearing the Light Rachel Milt and Evan Forcucci

***Carol** *Silent 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.

Bearing the Light Into the World

***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.

Responsive Benediction "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman
When invited to do so, please read responsively:

One: When the song of the angels is stilled,
Many: *When the star in the sky is gone,*
One: When the kings and princes are home,
Many: *When the shepherds are back with their flock,*
One: The work of Christmas begins:

All: To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Benedictory Blessing

Postlude

Joy Fantasy

John Kramer

Thank you for your presence tonight...and Merry Christmas!

Serving This Evening

Lee Barton, *Worship Associate Emeritus* · The Rev. Heather Janules, Parish Minister · Peter McEntee,
Martin Newhouse and Ivan Correia, *Worship Associates* · John Kramer, *Director of Music* ·
Jay Kwan, *Livestream Coordinator*

Ushers: Sophia Sid, Sheila Rudolph-Correia and Gordy McIntosh

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.*