

*So, the shortest day came, and the year died, and everywhere
down the centuries of the snow-white world came people sing-
ing, dancing, to drive the dark away.*

Susan Cooper

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ◆ Call to Community
One Small Face
Margaret Starkey*
- ◆ Prelude/Candles of Community
Dark of Winter
performed by UU Fellowship, Northfield, MN
- ◆ Chalice Lighting
Solstice Chalice Lighting
by Elena Westbrook*
- ◆ Spoken Affirmation
*Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law.
This is our great covenant to dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in freedom and to help one another.*

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDINGS

- ◆ Opening Thought
from *Solstice Poem*
by Margaret Atwood
- ◆ Song
Winter Solstice Song
words, music, and performed by Linda Thiel
- ◆ Reading
from *Come Christmas*
by Maureen Killoran
- ◆ Song
Stables
words & music: Peter Mayer*

◆ Practices

Meditation

The Prayer of Midwinter
by Catlin Matthews*

Quiet Sitting for a Moment

Musical Response

Night, part 1
composed & performed by George Winston

◆ Reading

How Palestinians Keep Warm
by Naomi Shihab Nye

DECLARING OUR POSSIBILITIES

◆ Discourse

Ghosts of Christmas Past
by Elena Westbrook

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

◆ Giving

Those who wish may bring their gifts to the table.

◆ Song - 301

Where Is the Light
words, music, and performed by Peter Mayer*

◆ Parting Thought,

from *Sonata for Voice & Silence*
by Mark Belletini

◆ 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.*

◆ Postlude

Feel Good

*Lifting contributions from Unitarian Universalists

PROGRAM NOTES

We welcome back to our pulpit this morning Elena Westbrook. She has been a member of Community UU Church in Plano for more than 25 years and a member of their worship team for more than half that time. Raised a liberal Christian, she has developed a personal theology that draws on Buddhist, neo-pagan, and Quaker traditions as well as Unitarian Universalism. She and her husband Paul live in a passive & active solar house in Fairview and try to do their best for the climate and democracy.

A reminder that following our morning assembly today, you are urged to stay for an open conversation with one topic: **What do we want our new vision statement to be?** Bring your plate of goodies from Conversations & Calories and return to the chapel for an open-ended conversation. What words do you think will best explain to people who've never heard of Unitarian Universalism? What is our vision? What words do we choose to express it?

How Can You Help? The Shelter has who is in need. A mother (40) and her young daughter (8) have been able to leave the shelter and begin a new life, but still need some help. Check the poster on the foyer bulletin board for specifics (i.e., winter clothing, household items, etc.) Speak with Marilyn if you are able to help make their new beginning a joyful success.

Earth Day Planning Committee meets on Thursday from 6-8 in the Emerson Room to continue planning next April's Earth Day Festival. Open to all who would like to help with the effort.

Continued on back panel

WELCOME GUESTS

We are Unitarian Universalists. We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are people from many backgrounds who have different beliefs, but shared values.

Grounded in more than two hundred years of thoughtful, spiritual communities, we are people of many generations, ethnicities, genders and sexualities, and spiritual backgrounds. People engaged in making the world a better place. People focusing on what really matters – love, justice, integrity, and hope.

We are a lay-led congregation. Lay-led congregations have no minister which means members of the congregation manage the various aspects of our church life. Unitarian Universalism has a proud tradition of lay-led churches.

We Unitarian Universalists have different beliefs, but shared values. We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may also be agnostic, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, humanist, Jewish, Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in our church community is one of our strengths – we're always learning how to see the world from a different perspective.

Learn more about us at your leisure by downloading our mobile app 'Red River UU' from Google Play or the Apps Store (or use the QR code on the back panel.)

This is who we are. We are glad you joined us today.



MAKING THINGS HAPPEN TODAY

- ◆ Board rep: *Don Rogers*
- ◆ Greeting us at the door: *Liz Rapp*
- ◆ Leading today: *Elena Westbrook*
- ◆ AV crew: *Carole Harner, Don Rogers, Jim Holmes, Marla Loturco*
- ◆ Sunday school leader: *David Dyer*
- ◆ Providing refreshments: *Good Times Team #2*

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

10 am - Adult Forum

A Virtual Look at the Universe

Now thru March 3

11:15 am - The Morning Assembly

Reflections on the Seven Principles:

2nd Principle: Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, leading

What do we mean by justice and equity and how are they related to our expression of compassion within community?

12:15 pm – Conversations & Calories

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THE MORNING PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023



Spiritually Alive
Radically Inclusive
Justice Centered