

“Behold a candle, how it gives its light. It weeps its life away drop by drop in order to give forth its flame of light.”
Abdu’l-Bahá

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

- ◆ Ringing the Tibetan Bowl
- ◆ Call to Community
On a Winter Morning
by Barbara Cheatham*
- ◆ Prelude/ Candles of Community
In the Bleak Midwinter
performed by Paul Byrum
- ◆ Chalice Lighting
We Gather This Hour
by Christine Robinson*
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Song 244
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
music: “Carole” by Richard Willis | words: Rev. Sears*
- ◆ Reading 1
from *Solstice*
by Diane Lee Millay
from *First Fig*
by Edna St. Vincent Millay
- ◆ Song 233
Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella
- ◆ Reading 2
I Will Light Candles This Holiday
by Compassionate Friends

- ◆ Song 246
O Little Town of Bethlehem
- ◆ Reading 3
The Candle
by Clara B. Thurston
- ◆ Song 235
Deck The Halls with Boughs of Holly
- ◆ Reading 4
This Candle
by Amy I Ludwig VanDerwater
- ◆ Song 235
Sing We Now of Christmas
- ◆ Practices
Meditation
Our Candles
by Poetic Expressions
Quiet Sitting for a Moment
Musical Response
What Child is This
- ◆ Reading 5
Just Plain Old Jane
by Joan Rooney
- ◆ Song
O Christmas Tree
- ◆ Reading 6
The Candle
by Katherine Mansfield
- ◆ Song 231
Angels We Have Heard on High
UU Society of Columbia, SC singing*

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ◆ Homily
Five Beautiful Love Lessons from a Candle
by Nate Sanna
- ◆ Song 247
Joy to the World
Les Tacy* singing
- ◆ Reading 7
Candles
by Carl Dennis
- ◆ Song 251
Silent Night
UU Church of Elgin, IL singing*
- ◆ Benediction
Christmas Eve Blessing, adapted
by Maureen Killoran*
- ◆ 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
In the Bleak Midwinter Reprise
Performed by Paul Byrum

*Lifting contributions from Unitarian Universalists

PROGRAM NOTES

This morning’s assembly, Carols & Candles was created by the worship team who will return next Sunday for a special end-of-the-year morning.

The church will be closed through the new year, weekly activities resume Jan 2nd.

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 App 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: *Carolyn Cameron*
- ◆ Leading today: *Jack Bolerjack, Bill Holloway, Marla Loturco*
- ◆ Keyboardist: *Dan Althoff*
- ◆ AV crew: *Carole Harner, Don Rogers, Jim Holmes*
- ◆ Sunday school leader: *David Dyer*
- ◆ Providing refreshments: *Good Times Team #4*

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

10 am - **Adult Forum returns on January 7 with**

A Virtual Look at the Universe

Jan 7 thru March 3

11:15 am - The Morning Assembly

The Congregation . . .Sharing Joy!

Our Sharing Morning Assemblies are usually on the last Sunday of the year. This year it just happens to fall on New Year's Eve so not only are we asking you to bring a favorite poem, reading, song, or anecdote to share your joy, but we will also be celebrating our annual **Burning Bowl** tradition. Afterwards, we will have the last **5th Sunday All Church Potluck** lunch along with a **New Year Eve's special surprise** event.

12:15 pm – Our last 5th Sunday all-church potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share!

Red River Unitarian Universalists

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THE MORNING PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023



Spiritually Alive
Joyfully Inclusive
Justice Centered

