

December Soul Matters Theme is Opening to Joy



***The Story of Christmas***  
***Our Annual Participatory Pageant***

Sunday, December 19 - 10:15 am  
In-Person or Youtube Livestream

Welcome to the Unitarian Church of Evanston's Worship Service.  
If you are participating in-person, please refrain from singing until you are invited to do so by worship leaders. You may hum or mouth along with the words. If you are participating from home, please feel free to join in full-throated singing!

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**ENTER TO WORSHIP**

## Ringling the Chime

## Welcome and Announcements

Opening Reading *Invocation* by Ann Weems

Introit *Coventry Carol* by Thomas Mawdyke, Lloyd Conley, arr.  
Andrew Carpenter and Charlotte Post, alto saxophones

## Land Acknowledgement

## Chalice Lighting

For we affirm that a flame banishes the dreariest darkness;  
the tree of life endures the harshest time;  
and the spirit of love is renewed with the birth of every child.  
We celebrate light and life and love.

\*Covenant by James Vila Blake

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 love,  
And to help one another.

\*Hymn No. 244 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (verse 1-2)  
Quartet; congregation; Gregory Shifrin, piano

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, to all good will, from heaven the news we bring."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

## Joys and Sorrows

**Prayer**

*Christmas Beatitudes* by David Rhys Williams

**\*Sung Response: Hymn No. 391**

*Voice Still and Small*

Jenn Wisegarver, Kiley Korey, vocals; Gregory Shifrin, piano

Voice still and small, deep inside all,  
I hear you call, singing.  
In storm and rain, sorrow and pain,  
Still we'll remain singing.  
Calming my fears, quenching my tears,  
Through all the years, singing.

**Offering**

*We share our offering today with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), whose mission is to advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.*

**Offertory Music**

*Charlie Brown Medley* as played by "The Piano Guys" Gregory Shifrin, piano

**Pageant**

led by Kathy Underwood

**\*Hymn No. 246**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1 & 3)

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.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

**\*Hymn No. 239**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* (verse 1, repeat chorus)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
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.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

**\*Hymn No. 237**      *The First Noel* (verses 1-2)

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds, in the fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

**\*Hymn No. 231**      *Angels We Have Heard on High* (verse 1)

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joys strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**\*Hymn No. 259**      *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (verse 1)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O Star of wonder, star of light, star, with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us through this perfect night.

**\*Hymn No. 245**      *Joy to the World* (verse 1-2)

Joy to the world! The Word is come: let earth with praises ring.  
Let every heart prepare a room, and heaven and nature sing, and  
Heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns: let hearts their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## Extinguishing the Chalice

Though the flame is extinguished  
We carry with us the warmth of community,  
The light of truth, and  
The fire of commitment,  
Until we are together again.

## Benediction

Rev. Eileen Wiviott

### Faith Formation Hour: Antiracism Antioppression at 11:35 am

- The Forum Discussion Group is exploring ways to connect to each other virtually and in person during the holidays, the pandemic, and the cold of winter, in room 6 and on Zoom.
- Widening the Circle small group discussion in the sanctuary and on Zoom.
- Middle and High School Youth in room 13
- Head, Heart, and Hands for 1st thru 6th grades in room 3
- Pre/K in room 9
- Nursery care in room 11

**Today's worship leaders:** Kathy Underwood, *Director of Lifespan Faith Formation*; Rev. Eileen Wiviott, *Senior Minister*; Rev. Susan Frances, *Assistant Minister for Congregational Life*; Jenn Wisegarver, Kiley Korey, Dave Schroeder, Robb Geiger, *Vocal Quartet*; Gregory Shifrin, *piano*; Adam Gough, *Congregational Life Assistant & A/V Tech*.

\* Please rise in body or spirit. If participating from home, we invite you to sing along. If you are participating in-person, please hum or mouth the words.