

Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills



December 11th, 2022
Of Darkness and Mystery

Worship Leader: The Rev. Mark Robel
Director of Music: Suzanne Cartreine
Worship Assistant: Naomi Cameron
Technology Coordinator: John Foreman
Hospitality Coordinators: Joan Parrish and Mimi Ferrell
Online Greeter: Parker Jayne
On site Greeter: Kathy Kaufmann
Director of Congregational Life & Learning:
Michael Packard, MAPS
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. John H. Nichols

www.uuwellesleyhills.org

CANDLES OF JOYS & SORROWS

You are invited to light a candle for any joy or sorrow.

PRELUDE *Freu' dich sehr, O meine Seele*
Georg Boehm

***HYMN # 225** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WORDS OF WELCOME

COMMUNITY GREETING

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Spirit of Life*
Carolyn McDade

UNISON CHALICE LIGHTING

**We light this chalice to illuminate
our faithful way forward as an
inspirational community of hope.
Together, we seek spiritual growth.
We strive for just and responsible action.
We dedicate ourselves to leading lives of
compassion and purpose.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

REFLECTION Naomi Cameron

WORDS OF OFFERING

*Our collection today goes to support **Bristol Lodge**. Please
donate online using the "Give" page on our UUSWH
website.*

OFFERTORY *Nada Te Turbe*
Jacques Berthier

"Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those that
seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble,
nothing can frighten. God alone fills us."

RECEIVING THE OFFERING

#380 "Old Hundredth"
*Rejoice in what we know and share,
in love and beauty everywhere,*

*Rejoice in truth that makes us free,
and in the good that yet shall be.*

COMMUNAL PRAYER

SILENT REFLECTION

KINDLED LAMPS & KINDRED SOULS

SUNG MEDITATION #1009 "Meditation on Breathing"

*When I breathe in, I'll breathe in peace.
When I breathe out, I'll breathe out love. (3x)*

READING *Mysteries, Yes*
Mary Oliver

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Where Do We Come
From?* Paul Gaugin/Brian Tate

SERMON "Of Darkness and Mystery"

***HYMN # 92** "Mysterious Presence, Source of All"

***EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

**Extinguishing this flame which has burned bright
in our midst, we revere what has been kindled within
each one of us — warmth in community, the light of
truth, a perpetual spark of hope.**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Peace Be With You*
Ralph Vaughan Williams

POSTLUDE *Bicinium on "Comfort, Comfort Ye My
People"*

Charles Callahan

* Please rise as you are able

Plate Collection

Our monthly plate collection theme for December is **Housing and Poverty** and this Sunday's collection will allow us to maintain our long-standing commitment of providing a monthly meal of American chop-suey, bread, and salad to **Bristol Lodge in Waltham**. Bristol Lodge serves a population of homeless or otherwise disadvantaged men and women. They remain in pandemic mode--no longer serving sit-down meals, but packaging them for take-out. During the pandemic, we could only send them monthly checks, but with kitchen access since September, we have resumed meal preparation which has been very much appreciated. Our dinners have always been a favorite for the clientele. Your generosity has been and will continue to be vital to continuing this effort!

Today

Change in COVID safety guidelines

The Board of Trustees has approved the PRAG recommendation that windows may remain closed during Sunday morning worship. They will only be open from 10-10:20 a.m. to briefly air out the sanctuary before the service every Sunday. For Fellowship Hour, the windows will continue to remain open in Parish Hall, as people are allowed to unmask to have food and beverages.

Un-Decorate the Tree

Today is the final day of our Un-Decorate the Tree drive to support the UU Urban Ministry's **Believe in Success** program. Please bring in any outstanding donations to our table at Fellowship Hour. If you cannot get in a donation, contact **Tricia Johnson** to coordinate pickup or drop off.

Community Messiah Sing

UU Wellesley Hills is hosting our Community Messiah Sing at **1:30 p.m. today in our Sanctuary**. Singers of all ages and abilities are welcome to participate; it's perfectly fine to come just to listen too! A reception with refreshments will follow the event.

This Week

The **"Gifts of Gratitude" Group** will meet on Zoom this week on **Tuesday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m.** Members of this group share **gratitude practices** that they have found inspiring and sustaining, as we as sharing readings, music, and mindfulness moments to re-inspire each other.

Choir Rehearsals are open to all and will be in person with an online option. Our next rehearsal is **Wed. Dec. 14th at 7:15 p.m.** Please contact Director of Music, **Suzie Cartreine** with any questions.

Fellowship Circles

The next Fellowship Circle happens on **Thu. Dec. 15th at 10:00 a.m.** Join members of UUSWH for casual conversation online, from the comfort of wherever it is you call home. Zoom links can be found on the calendar on our website.

Announcements

Sunday Morning Support

Our Hospitality Team is in need of volunteers to support Fellowship Hour. Although we are covered through December, a sign-up sheet for 2023 went out this week to coordinate for the rest of the church year. Please take a look at your calendars and fill in where you can. All other Sunday morning volunteer roles are open for signup as well!

Touchstones

Our annual Touchstones theme is "Regeneration" and in December the monthly theme is "Joy". You can learn more about the Touchstones program by reading the resources shared in our weekly update or on our website. You may also sign up to receive the Touchstone Thought for the Day by emailing a request to info@uuwellesley.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Holiday Worship Services

Sunday, December 18th. Our holiday Insta-pageant returns with a new story, called "illumination". There will also be a brass ensemble featuring members of UU Wellesley Hills and friends playing as part of the worship service.

Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve service. Extended prelude begins at 4:45 p.m.



UU Wellesley Hills

Whatever path has brought you here,
UU Wellesley Hills welcomes you

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