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Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater – December 24, 2024

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*Rev. Amy Kindred*

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

**Our Vision:** An inclusive religious community, a beacon for reason, meaning and bold social action.

**Our Mission:** To celebrate dignity and respect for all, nurture lifelong spiritual growth, act for justice and equality, and serve the wider community.

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**Opening**

“Gloria”  
By Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Chancel Choir

Laudamus te  
Katherine Knippel and Kristy Silliven, Soloists

**Welcome**

**Tingsha**

**Opening Hymn #244**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

**Chalice Lighting**

**Anthem**

“Carol of the Bells”  
M. Leontovich  
Chancel Choir

**Reading One {Story for All Ages}**

Adaptation of “Annunciation of the Shepherds”  
By Rev. Lynn Ungar

**Anthem**

“Angel’s Carol”  
By John Rutter

**Reading Two**

“Holding Time”  
Delivered by Rev. Amy

**Hymn #409**

“Sleep, My Child”



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**Offertory Words**

For online giving: <https://uuc.breezechms.com/give/online>

For text giving: (727) 500-2410

**Offertory Music**

“O Holy Night”  
By Adolphe Adam  
Katherine Knippel, soloist

**Reading Three**

“Seven Words”  
By Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker

**Hymn # 241**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”  
Vs. 1: Choir  
Vs. 2: Instrumental  
Vs. 3: Congregation

**Introduction to Sharing the Flame**

**Hymn #251**

“Silent Night”  
Vs. 1: Chancel Choir auf Deutsch  
Vs. 1, 2 and 3: Congregation

**Prayer**

**Hymn #245**

“Joy to the World!”

**Extinguishing the Chalice**

“Go in peace, go making peace, live gently, love mightily and bow to the mystery”

**Postlude**

Holiday Sing-a-long  
Arr. Audrey Snyder

**Our Grateful Thanks:**

**Worship Associates/Readers:** Margie Manning and Soledad Vaquer; **Service Technical Support:** Jeremy Dillow, Rich Cann, David Feick; **Zoom Host:** Lore Eargle; **Chancel Choir Members:** *Soprano* / Barbara Bedingfield, Christine Parliman, Susie Safford; *Alto* / Gretchen Craig, Pan Godchaux, Sue Hand; *Tenor* / Matt Bouchie, Linda Carroll, April Cook, Anne DiNatale; *Bass* / Rich Cann, Ed Kraemer, Bruce Pell; **Guest Musicians:** String Quartet | Briana DeStoppelaire, violin; Cole Kountoupis, violin; Spencer Dayton, viola; Ethan Fatolitis, cello; Sprano Soloists | Katherine Knippel, Kristy Silliven; **Slides and Video:** Margie Manning and Jeremy Dillow; **Ushers:** TBD; **Visuals:** Ana “Soledad” Vaquer; **Staff:** Anne Gilbert, Campus Administrator; Rev. Amy Kindred, Developmental Minister; Chuck Miller, Pianist; Dr. Susan Robinson, Choral Conductor, Zoraida Santana, Custodian; Gary Strauss, Security Guard; Susan Strauss, Handyperson; Lori Thorn, Lifelong Learning; Dale Zwick, Bookkeeper; **Pastoral Associates:** Bill Foley, Pan Godchaux, Kathy Krohn; Aryna Ryan

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2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, FL 33764 (727-531-7704); [www.uuc.org](http://www.uuc.org)



**SUNDAY FLOWER DONATIONS**

If you would like to supply the flowers for an upcoming Sunday service in honor of a special event or person in your life, please email Ana "Soledad" Vaquer at [soledad.globalre@gmail.com](mailto:soledad.globalre@gmail.com). She will help you coordinate your contribution.

**Hymn #244 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

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.

But with the woes of war and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and we who fight the wars hear not the love song which they bring.  
O hush the noise of battle strife, and hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold:  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

**Hymn #409 "Sleep, My Child"**

Sleep, my child, and peace attend you, all through the night.  
I who love you shall be near you, all through the night.  
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping,  
hill and vale in slumber sleeping,  
I my loving vigil keeping, all through the night.

Mother, I can feel you near me, all through the night.  
Father, I know you can hear me, all through the night.  
And when I am your age nearly,  
still I will remember clearly,  
how you sang and held me dearly, all through the night.

While the moon her watch is keeping, all through the night;  
while one-half the world is sleeping, all through the night.  
Even while the sun comes stealing,  
visions of the day revealing,  
breathes a pure and holy feeling, all through the night.



**Hymn # 241 “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

*Vs. 1: Choir*

*Vs. 2: Instrumental*

*Vs. 3: Congregation*

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone,  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,  
cradled in a manger and a bed of hay;  
in the bleak midwinter, stable-place sufficed  
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.

Once more child and mother weave their magic spell,  
touching hearts with wonder words can never tell;  
in the bleak midwinter, in this world of pain,  
where our hearts are open love is born again.

**Hymn #251 “Silent Night”**

*Vs. 1: Chancel Choir au Deutsch*

*Vs. 1, 2 and 3: Congregation*

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,”  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
child of God, love’s pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.



**Hymn #245 “Joy to the World!”**

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.

2. 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.

3. No more let ins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground.

Let righteousness.  
its glories show,  
as far as love is found,  
as far as love is found,  
as far, as far as love is found.