

ORDER OF SERVICE
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
“The Spirit of Christmas”
December 24, 2020, 7 pm



Photo by Anne Nygård on Unsplash

Rev. Florence Caplow

Rev. Sally Fritsche

Readers Theresa Benson, Jerry Carden, Penne Beckett, Kiri Fagen-Ulmschneider, Sarah Wisseman

Juan Camacho & Matt Gladden, Piano; Paige Graham, Soprano
Emily McKown, Bell Ringer, Voice & Guitar; Jacob Croegaert, harmonium
Austin Cody, Choir Director; Paul Weston, Virtual Choir Creator
UUCUC Virtual Choir
Chris Hannauer, AV

All readings this evening are by Rev. Howard Thurman (1899-1981), poet, pastor, theologian, civil rights activist, and founder of [The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples](#) in San Francisco. Readings are from [The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations](#), used by permission of Friends United Press. All rights reserved. To purchase a copy: <https://bookstore.friendsunitedmeeting.org>

* All carols are from previous Christmas Eve services at UUCUC, Matt Gladden on the organ and piano.

Pre-Service Carols Choir and CrUUNers from December 24, 2019

Live Bell Ringing Emily McKown

Prelude “*Laudate Dominum*” by W.A. Mozart, sung by the UUCUC Choir & Paige Graham; Matt Gladden, piano

Unison Chalice Lighting

In times of darkness we stumble towards the tiny flame.
In times of cold we seek the warming fire.
In times of repression we reach for the lamp of truth.
In times of loss we pray for the comforting light.
In times of joy we light a candle of celebration.
Spirit of Life, as we kindle this light, help us find what we need this day.
(chalice lighting words by Rev. Brian J. Kiely)

Welcome from Rev. Florence Caplow

Song “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” by Kim Gannon and Walter Kent, played by Emily McKown and Jacob Croegaert

First Reading “I Will Light Candles This Christmas” read by Theresa Benson

Candle Lighting Rev. Florence Caplow and Rev. Sally Fritsche

Carol “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Second Reading "The Symbol of Christmas" read by Sarah Wisseman

🎵 **Carol** "What Child Is This?"

Third Reading "Mood of Christmas" read by Penné Beckett

🎵 **Carol** "The First Noël"

Fourth Reading "Strange Irony" read by Kiri Fagen-Ulmschneider

🎵 **Carol** "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Offering Words "The Work of Christmas" read by Rev. Florence Caplow (see Shared Offering information below)

Offertory: "We Wish You a Merry Christmas/Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah" arr. Kyle Landry/Juan Camacho

Fifth Reading "The Singing of Angels" read by Jerry Carden

🎵 **Carol** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Reflection "The Spirit of Christmas" Rev. Florence Caplow

Anthem "O Holy Night" sung by Austin Cody; Juan Camacho on piano

Blessing & Invitation to Zoom Candle Sharing "The True Meaning of Christmas" read by Rev. Florence Caplow

"Silent Night" sung by the UUCUC Choir

Please join us on Zoom immediately after the singing of "Silent Night". Lower your lights, light a candle, and turn on your video. Use this link: [shared candle lighting on Zoom](#).

Christmas Eve Shared Offering

Due to the dire situation of many of our neighbors, our Christmas Eve Shared Offering will go toward the utility bills of people in the CU community struggling during this pandemic time. There is a new "Unitarian Universalist Utility Fund" administered by Cunningham Township.

To donate, please visit our UUCUC ["Online Donations"](#) and choose "Christmas Eve Shared Offering".

You can also give to our Partner Churches throughout the month of December, and our Board will match our usual Christmas Eve Partner Church donation from Board Contingency Funds.