***Opening Up to Joy***

Order of Service                  December 12, 2021

“Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.”

― Thich Nhat Hanh

**Gathering**

Music for Gathering

Welcome Silas Thoele

Chime

Prelude *Joy to the World*, traditional

 Colemann Packer accompanied by Wendy Mann

Words of Gathering Abby Kuras

Video *Ode to Joy* Flash Mob

Chalice Lighting Brady Kuras and Silas Thoele

We light this chalice because we are Unitarian Universalists

This is the church of the open mind

This is the church of the helping hands

This is the church of the loving heart

This is the church that takes care of the Earth and each other

Opening Hymn #100 *I’ve Got Peace like a River*

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion Colleen Thoele

Director of Religious Education

A time of silence, sharing our sorrows and losses, pastoral prayer,

and sharing our joys, wonder and awe.

Music Meditation *Glimpse of Winter*

by Tyler S. Grant

Raylynn Rome accompanied by Shirley Kiernan

**Reflecting**

Time for All Ages *The Joy of Kittens*

Raylynn Rome

1st Reading *Laughter*

 author unknown

Brady Kuras

Laughter Meditation Silas Thoele

Reflection Hymn #311 *Let it Be a Dance*

Message Colemann Packer

**Returning**

Offering/Offertory *I See the Light*

Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi

 Abby Kuras

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. May we carry these in our hearts and minds until we are together again.

Closing Hymn #118 *This Little Light of Mine*

Benediction Raylynn Rome

Song of Blessing and Sending *Go On Your Way in Peace*

by Hal Walker

Golden Tones Junior Choir

Virtual Coffee Hour

*Next Sunday, December 19, 2021*

Celebrating Christmas: A Decade of Stories and Joy!

*Led DRE Colleen Thoele and Sandy Eaglen and*

*with performances by the children of our community.*

**VISITORS -** Welcome! We are glad you are here. Thank you for participating in worship with us today. We hope that you will find a spiritual home here and that you will be enriched in the liberal religious practice and heritage of Unitarian Universalism. This congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The members of this church take pride in the fact that we embrace people of all races, ethnicities, ages, creeds, sexual orientations, and abilities. In addition, we are a “Welcoming Congregation,” which means that we have taken part in a special program, designed by the UUA, for congregations that see a need to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. The principles and purposes of the UUA, which we “covenant to affirm and promote,” can be found in the front of the hymnal, on the UUA website (www.uua.org), and on bookmarks available in the front entryway.

**We are concerned for everyone’s safety.** If we need to evacuate the building for a fire, a drill or for any other reason, please follow the directions of the worship leader.  Parents and guardians should look for their children on the grassy area behind the Annex and should not go to the classrooms.  People with mobility concerns or other special needs should proceed to the entryway where evacuation assistance will be available.

**OUR SUNDAY SERVICE is offered at 10 AM via Zoom. Visit kentuu.org for information to join the service**.

**Church Office:** The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex

 (yellow house) next to the church building.

 Office hours are: Monday -Friday 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Visit our website.

**Church Address**: Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

 228 Gougler Avenue, Kent, OH 44240.

 Office – 330.673.4247 Fax – 330.677.4772

 Email – churchoffice@kentuu.org

 On the web – https://kentuu.org

 Facebook - www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent

**CHURCH STAFF**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Minister | Rev. Steven Protzman | revsteven@kentuu.org |
| Music Director | Hal Walker | halwalker@mac.com |
| Interim Music Manager | Vanessa Vesely |  |
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| Affiliated Community Minister, CLM | Rev. Christie Anderson |  |
| Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM) | Lori Mirkin-McGee |  |
| Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM) | Kathy Kerns |  |

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**#100 I’ve Got Peace Like a River**

I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul. (2x)

I’ve got joy like a fountain…

I’ve got love like an ocean…

I’ve got pain like an arrow…

I’ve got tears like the raindrops …

I’ve got strength like a mountain …

**#311 *Let it Be a Dance***

(Chorus)
Let it be a dance we do.
May I have this dance with you?
Through the good times and the bad times, too,
let it be a dance.

Let a dancing song be heard.
Play the music, say the words,
and fill the sky with sailing birds.
Let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
Learn to follow, learn to lead,
feel the rhythm, fill the need
to reap the harvest, plant the seed.
Let it be a dance.

(Chorus)

Everybody turn and spin,
let your body learn to bend,
and, like a willow with the wind,
let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
A child is born, the old must die;
a time for joy, a time to cry.
Take it as it passes by.
Let it be a dance.

(Chorus)

Morning star comes out at night,
without the dark there is no light.
If nothing’s wrong, then nothing’s right.
Let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
Let the sun shine, let it rain;
share the laughter, bear\* the pain,
and round and round we go again.
Let it be a dance.

**#118 *This Little Light of Mine***

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine…

Building up a world, I’m gonna let it shine…