

# Christmas - The Unitarian Holiday



5 December  
Rev. Steven Protzman  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Kent



# ***Christmas: The Unitarian Holiday***

Order of Service

December 5, 2021

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I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round...  
as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only  
time I know of in the year when men and women open their shut-up  
hearts freely.

from *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens

## **Gathering**

Music for Gathering

Welcome

Rev. Steven Protzman, Minister

Chime

Prelude

*Once in Royal David's City*  
by Henry John Gauntlett  
Christie Anderson and Brad Bolton

Words of Gathering

Heidi Shaffer Bish, Worship Associate

Chalice Lighting

Now is the moment of magic, and here's a blessing:  
we already possess all the gifts we need;  
we've already received our presents:  
ears to hear music, eyes to behold lights,  
hands to build true peace on earth  
and to hold each other tight in love.

Opening Hymn

*#235 Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly*

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

A time of silence, sharing our sorrows and losses, pastoral prayer,  
and sharing our joys, wonder and awe.

Music Meditation

*What Child is This?*  
arranged by Jon Grier  
Vanessa Vesely, Interim Music Manager

## Reflecting

Time for All Ages	<i>The Christmas Tree Story</i> Colleen Thoele, Director of Religious Education
Hymn of Community (insert)	<i>O Christmas Tree</i>
Reading	<i>A Unitarian Christmas</i> by Tracy Springberry
Part I: <i>The Revival of Christmas</i>	Rev. Steven Protzman
Reflection Hymn	#244 <i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>
Reading	an excerpt from <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens
Part II: <i>Christmas: The Unitarian Holiday</i>	

## Returning

Offering	<i>I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day</i> , traditional words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Christie Anderson and Brad Bolton
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	#248 <i>O We Believe in Christmas</i>
Benediction	
Song of Blessing and Sending	<i>Go On Your Way in Peace</i> by Hal Walker Golden Tones Junior Choir
Virtual Coffee Hour	



Next Sunday, December 12, 2021  
*Opening Up to Joy*  
Led our Middle School Youth and DRE Colleen Thoele

**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](http://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](http://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.

**Church Address:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
228 Gougler Avenue, Kent, OH 44240.

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On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent](http://www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent)



## CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Christie Anderson

Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Lori Mirkin-McGee

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Kathy Kerns

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021 – 2022

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## Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.  
'Tis the season to be jolly,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Don we now our gay apparel,  
fa la la la la la, la la la.  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Strike the harp and join the chorus,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Follow me in merry measure,  
fa la la la la la, la la la.  
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Sing we joyous altogether,  
fa la la la la la, la la la.  
Heedless of the wind and weather,  
fa la la la la, la la la la.

## O Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!  
In beauty green will always grow  
Through summer sun and winter snow.  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
You are the tree most lovely!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
You are the tree most lovely!  
How often you give us delight  
In brightly shining Christmas light!  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
You are the tree most loved!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me  
That hope and love will ever be  
The way to joy and peace for me.  
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,  
Your beauty green will teach me.

### **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.

## O We Believe in Christmas

O we believe in Christmas,  
and we keep Christmas day;  
and we will honor Christmas  
the ancient worldwide way:  
the Christmas of all peoples,  
the sun's returning cheer  
rung out from towers and steeples  
at midnight of the year.

And we will join at Christmas  
the song of hope and joy  
that finds its theme at Christmas  
in every girl and boy.  
The flame of life will dwindle  
as fades the sunset sky  
until a child shall kindle  
new light and raise it high.

Then sing we all at Christmas  
the song of that new birth  
which holds the hope of Christmas  
and brings its joy to earth;  
which knits the generations,  
each daughter and each son,  
beyond all tribes and nations,  
and makes the many one.

Shine out ye lights of Christmas  
from hearth and tree and star!  
And let the warmth of Christmas  
shed kindness near and far!  
And clang, ye bells of Christmas,  
upon the frosty air!  
And may the joy of Christmas  
spread gladness everywhere!