

A blue Christmas tree stands in a snowy, misty forest. The tree is decorated with small white lights at its top. At its base, three lit candles are visible. The background shows bare trees and a soft, hazy light.

Blue Christmas



13 December 2023
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

Blue Christmas

Order of Service

December 13, 2023

"What is grief, if not love persevering?"

--Vision in WandaVision (Marvel)

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Chime

Chalice Lighting

Opening Hymn

#55 Dark of Winter

Call to Worship

The Mustard Seed

Silence

Music Interlude

Candles of Lament and Hope

adapted from *Thinking out Loud*
by from Melinda Cousins

*Story

Anniversary, by Kathy Wagner

Candle of Grief

*Story

Pain, by Nicholas Dollak

Candle of Physical Struggles

*Story

Anger, by Ken S.

Candle of Internal Struggles

Hymn

#352 Find a Stillness

*Story

Distance, by K.O.

Candle of Strained Relationships

*Story

Fear, by M.A.

Candle of Disappointments

Community Candle Lighting

You are invited to come forward to light one of the votive candles from a pillar candle which represents your burdens, griefs, sorrows-- those things which make Christmas a "blue" time for you. You may speak the name or the event if you wish to do so as you light the candle before returning to your seat.

Hymn of Longing

#1034 *De Noche*

Reading (in unison)

by Howard Thurman

I will light candles this Christmas
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of graces to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.

Prayer

Silence

Hymn

#18 *What Wondrous Love*

Returning

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

#83 *Winds Be Still*

Benediction

Postlude

* Readings are from "Reader's Write" from *The Sun Magazine*.



Sunday, December 17, 2023
The Tree that was Meant to Be
Led by DRE Colleen Thoele and our UUCK Children and Youth

Activities & Events: Dec. 10 - 17, 2023<https://kentuu.org/calendar>kentuu.org/news/announcements-events**Dec. 10 Sunday**

10:00 AM Worship
 11:00 AM Social Hour
 11:30 PM Pageant Rehearsal

Dec. 11 Monday

Church Office Closed

Dec. 12 Tuesday

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
 4:00 PM Finance Committee
 6:00 PM Rental: Fessenden Reserved
 6:00 PM Tone Chimes Rehearsal

Dec. 13 Wednesday

12:00 PM Rental – Hobbs Hall Reserved
 4:30 PM Knitting, Crochet, Needle Point
 4:30 PM Board Audit Team
 5:30 PM Youth Music Group
 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 PM Blue Christmas Vespers

Dec. 14 Thursday

1:15 PM Hobbs Hall Reserved
 7:00 PM Community Sing

Dec. 15 Friday

11:30 AM Rental – Hobbs Hall Reserved

Dec. 16 Saturday

8:00 AM Rental-Hobbs Hall Reserved
 10:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal

Dec. 17 Sunday

10:00 AM Worship
 11:00 AM Social Hour

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

Office – 330.673.4247

Email – churchoffice@kentuu.org

On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent

Church Office: The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex
 (yellow house) next to the church building

Visit our website.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Minister
 Congregational Administrator
 Dir. of Religious Education
 Transitional Music Director
 Accompanist
 Campus Use Manager
 Nursery Staff
 Sexton
 Tech Manager
 Affiliated Community Minister
 Affiliated Community Minister
 Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)
 Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Rev. Steven Protzman
 MaryBeth Hannan
 Colleen Thoele
 Emily Hall
 Vanessa Vesely
 Katie Kuras
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023 – 2024

Board Moderator
 Board Asst. Moderator
 Board Co-Secretary
 Board Co-Secretary
 Trustee
 Trustee
 Trustee

Kara Kramer
 Ginny Horvath
 Susanna Smart
 Carol Weigand
 Heidi Shaffer Bish
 Kay Eckman
 David Weaver

board@kentuu.org

#55 Dark of Winter

Dark of winter, soft and still,
your quiet calm surrounds me.
Let my thoughts go where they will,
ease my mind profoundly.
And then my soul will sing a song
a blessed song of love eternal.
Gentle darkness, soft and still,
bring your quiet to me.

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes,
that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries,
comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice,
a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise,
let your peace flow through me.

#352 Find a Stillness

Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me.
Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,
I will find true harmony.

Seek the essence, hold the essence, let the essence carry me.
Let me flower, help me flower, watch me flower, carry me.
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,
I will find true harmony.

#1034 De Noche

De noche iremos, de noche
Que para encontrar al fuente
Sólo la sed nos alumbra (2x)

By night, we hasten, in darkness
To search for living water
Only our thirst leads us onward (2x)

#18 What Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that brings my heart such bliss,
and takes away the pain of my soul, of my soul,
and takes away the pain of my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath my sorrows ground,
friends to me gather'd round, O my soul, O my soul,
friends to me gather'd round, O my soul.

To love and to all friends I will sing, I will sing,
to love and to all friends I will sing.
To love and to all friends who pain and sorrow mend,
with thanks unto the end I will sing, I will sing,
with thanks unto the end I will sing.

#83 Winds Be Still

Winds be still. Storm clouds pass and silence come.
Peace grace this time with harmony.
Fly, bird of hope, and shine, light of love,
and in calm let all find tranquility.

Bird fly high. Lift our gaze toward distant view.
Help us to sense life's mystery.
Fly high and far, and lead us each to see
how we move through the winds of eternity.

Light shine in. Luminate our inward view.
Help us to see with clarity.
Shine bright and true so we may join our songs
In new sounds that become full symphony.