



*The Mystery,  
the Magic,  
and the Music*

24 December 2023  
Christmas Eve  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



# ***The Mystery, the Magic, and the Music***

Order of Service

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like a shawl. But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart...filled it, too, with a melody that would last forever.

—Bess Streeter Aldrich, *Song of Years*

## **Gathering**

Music for Gathering *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*  
arr. Luther Henderson

*Huron Carol*, arr. Luther Henderson

*Silver Bells*, music by Jay Livingston & Ray Evans  
performed by the Tarnished Brass

Welcome Rev. Steven Protzman, Minister

Prelude *I Saw Three Ships*, arr. Luther Henderson  
performed by the Tarnished Brass

Call to Worship Heidi Shaffer Bish, Worship Associate

Processional Hymn #253 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
led by Kent UU Peace Chorus with Vincent Swango, oboe

## Chalice Lighting

As a sign of the love that brings us together  
As a symbol of this season's message of hope  
As a witness to the light of truth within and among us  
With a joyful spirit on this shining night  
We kindle our Christmas flame.

Chalice Lighting Hymn #224 *Let Christmas Come* (set to *Old Hundredth*)  
led by Diane Cardew with Rebekah Swango, flute

## **Reflecting**

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 *In the Bleak Midwinter*, by Gustav Holst  
performed by the Tarnished Brass

Reading *The Moment of Magic*  
by Rev. Victoria Safford

Carol *Watts Cradle Hymn*, traditional, arr. by Peter Amidon  
Kent UU Peace Chorus  
featuring sopranos: Renee Ruchotzke, Beth Wills, and Holly Wickersham  
Vanessa Vesely, piano

Reading *Another Star, Another Night*  
by Richard S. Gilbert  
David Weaver, Worship Associate

Carol #246 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
led by Diana and Dave Watt with Rebekah Swango, flute

Reading *We Have an Old Story to Tell*  
by Rev. Gretchen S. Haley

Carol #228 *Once in Royal David's City*  
led by Lee Brooker with Vincent Swango, oboe

Homily *The Mystery, the Magic, and the Music*  
Rev. Steven Protzman

Offering *The Carol of the Birds*, traditional Catalonian Carol  
words by Peter Schickele  
Vanessa Vesely, piano and Emily Hall, vocals

Lighting of the Candles

*Please keep lit candles upright  
and tip the unlighted candle into the lit candle.*

Song of Peace #388 *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Reading *The Gospel of Luke*  
Brad Bolton, guitar

Hymn #251 *Silent Night*

## Returning

Extinguishing the Chalice and our candles

We extinguish these flames but not the light of truth, the spirit of joy, the warmth of community, or the fire of Christmas hope May we carry these in our hearts and minds until we are together again.

Benediction

Postlude *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, arr. Luther Henderson  
performed by the Tarnished Brass

**Next Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**New Year, New Intention**

**Led by Ginny Horvath and Worship Associate CLM Lori Mirkin-McGee**

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**Activities & Events: Dec. 24-31, 2023**

<https://kentuu.org/calendar>

[kentuu.org/news/announcements-events](http://kentuu.org/news/announcements-events)

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**Dec. 24 Sunday**

10:00 AM Community Christmas  
6:30 PM Christmas Candlelight Service  
7:30 PM Fellowship Hour  
8:30 PM Christmas Candlelight Service

**Dec. 25 Monday Christmas**

Church Closed

**Dec. 26 Tuesday**

Church Office Closed

**Dec. 27 Wednesday**

4:30 PM Knitting, Crochet, Needle Point

**Dec. 28 Thursday**

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

**Dec. 29 Friday**

**Dec. 30 Saturday**

8:00 AM Rental - Hobbs Hall Reserved  
3:00 PM Rental - Hobbs Hall Reserved

**Dec. 31 Sunday**

10:00 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Social Hour

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

Office – 330.673.4247

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On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent](http://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  
Michelle Bores  
Brian Mulloy  
Julie Swango  
Rev. Renee Ruchotzke  
Rev. Christie Anderson  
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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023 – 2024**

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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](mailto:board@kentuu.org)



## #253 O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.venite, adoremus, venite,  
adoremus,

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
venite, adoremus, Dominum.

[O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.]

Lo, humble shepherds, hasting to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.

We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps;  
venite, adoremus, venite, adoremus,

venite, adoremus, Dominum.

[O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

venite, adoremus, venite, adoremus,

venite, adoremus, Dominum.

[O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.]

## #224 Let Christmas Come

Let Christmas come, its story told,  
when days are short and winds are cold;  
let Christmas come, its lovely song,  
when evening's soon and night is long.

Let Christmas come, its great star glow,  
on quiet city, parks of snow;  
let Christmas come, its table gleam,  
love born again: the truth of dream.



## #246 O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in they dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth.  
Let praises ring: from God they bring  
goodwill to all on earth.

How silently, how silently  
the wonder is made known,  
while God imparts to human hearts  
the gift that is our own.  
No ear may hear that coming,  
but in this worldly din,  
where souls are truly humble, then  
the dear babe rests within.



## #228 Once in Royal David's City

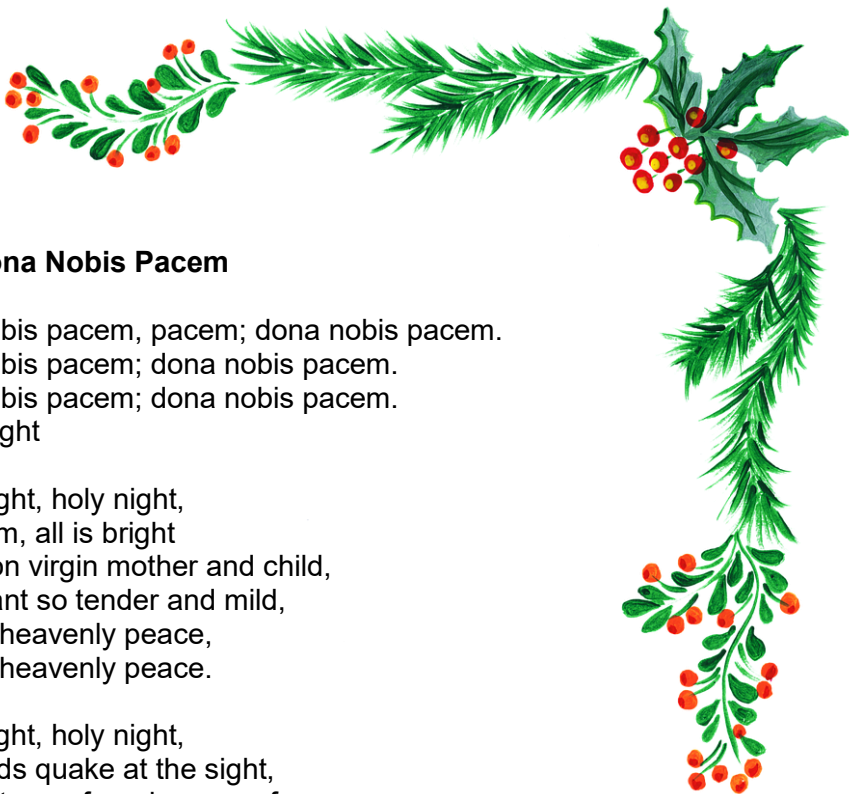
Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
so may we when life turns hard  
find in love our stay and guard.

Shepherds came to see this wonder,  
and to kneel in holy awe  
at that lowly stable manger  
where the infant lay on straw;  
so may we this happy morn  
honor every child that's born.

From afar three magi journeyed  
to that stable rude and bare,  
to pay homage to the infant,  
offering gifts both rich and rare;  
so may we our gifts bestow,  
whether we be high or low.

In that happy Christmas spirit,  
hear the angels from on high  
sing their ancient salutations:  
joy's a gift you cannot buy.  
So may we with heart that sings,  
share the truth this season brings.





### #388 Dona Nobis Pacem

Dona nobis pacem, pacem; dona nobis pacem.  
Dona nobis pacem; dona nobis pacem.  
Dona nobis pacem; dona nobis pacem.  
Silent Night

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.

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### Tarnished Brass Musicians

Jennifer May, Trumpet  
Rev. Christie Anderson, Aerophone (dba Trumpet)  
Don Easterling, French Horn  
Dave Watt, Trombone  
Randy Ruchotzke, Tuba