

Order Of Service – Dec. 20, 2020

The Light That Shines in the Darkness

Music for Contemplation: *Canyon Chaconne*, Paul Winter; *Hymn and Anthem*, Paul Winter and the Paul Winter Consort. Photos by Margery Ganz, Mary MacNamee, Peter Ralston, Susan Jhirad and Steve Schmidt, and © Soul Matters.

Sound of the Bell

Prelude: *Lo How a Rose e're Blooming*, by Michael Praetorius, pianist Molly Ruggles, photographs by Carole Bundy

Opening Words: words by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Welcome

Chalice Lighting: words by Robert Terry Weston

Covenant

Love is the heart of this church.

We commit to:

Being a diverse, welcoming community of mutual care and respect;

Supporting each other's spiritual journey and search for truth and meaning;

Promoting justice and serving the wider community.

We hold ourselves to this promise with compassion and understanding.

Hymn: *Lady Of the Seasons' Laughter*, words by Kendyl L. R. Gibbons, music by David Hurd (*Singing the Living Tradition* #51), vocalist Alex Daum; pianist Molly Ruggles.

Lady of the seasons' laughter, in the summer's warmth be near;

when the winter follows after, teach our spirits not to fear.

Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning year.

Sister of the evening starlight, in the falling shadows stay
here among us till the far light of tomorrow's dawning ray.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning day.

Mother of the generations, in whose love all life is worth
everlasting celebrations, bring our labors safe to birth.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning earth.

Goddess of all times' progression, stand with us when we engage
hands and hearts to end oppression, writing history's fairer page.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning age.

Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Milestones

Meditation: *Winter Sequence* by Mark Belletini from *Sonata for Voice and Silence*

Offering: *Blackbird*, by Paul McCartney & John Lennon, pianist Molly Ruggles

Reading: *The Shortest Day* by Susan Cooper, read by Ann Heintz

Music: *Greensleeves*, by Richard Jones, pianist Molly Ruggles

Sermon: *The Light That Shines in the Darkness*

Hymn: *Let Christmas Come*, words by John Hanly Morgan, English melody adapted and harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams (*Singing the Living Tradition* #224), vocalist Alex Cumming, pianist Molly Ruggles.

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.

Closing Words: words by Carl Seaburg

Postlude: *The Holly and The Ivy*. Traditional British Christmas Carol, pianist Molly Ruggles; photographs by Carole Bundy, Cheryl Siegel, Peter Hess.

Question for discussion: What do light and darkness mean to you, this time of year?