

Friday, December 24, 2021  
*Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Medford*

**A Warm Welcome to Our Guests**

Thank you for joining us this morning! We recognize that you have many choices and we are grateful you chose to be with us. We invite you to sign the guest book in the vestibule, and to learn more about our church community, please visit our website: [www.uumedford.org](http://www.uumedford.org); Facebook: *Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford*; email: [office@uumedford.org](mailto:office@uumedford.org); or telephone (781) 396-4549.

UU Church of Medford welcomes everyone and is recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Welcoming Congregation. This means that we are a church that is inclusive and expressive of the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons at every level of congregational life.

**Church Staff Ministries:**

Rev. Bruce Taylor, Minister: [minister@uumedford.org](mailto:minister@uumedford.org)

Molly Ruggles, Music Director: [music@uumedford.org](mailto:music@uumedford.org)

Mimi Olivier, Director of Religious Education: [dre@uumedford.org](mailto:dre@uumedford.org)

Brenda Bonetti, Church Office Admin.: [uumedford@uumedford.org](mailto:uumedford@uumedford.org)

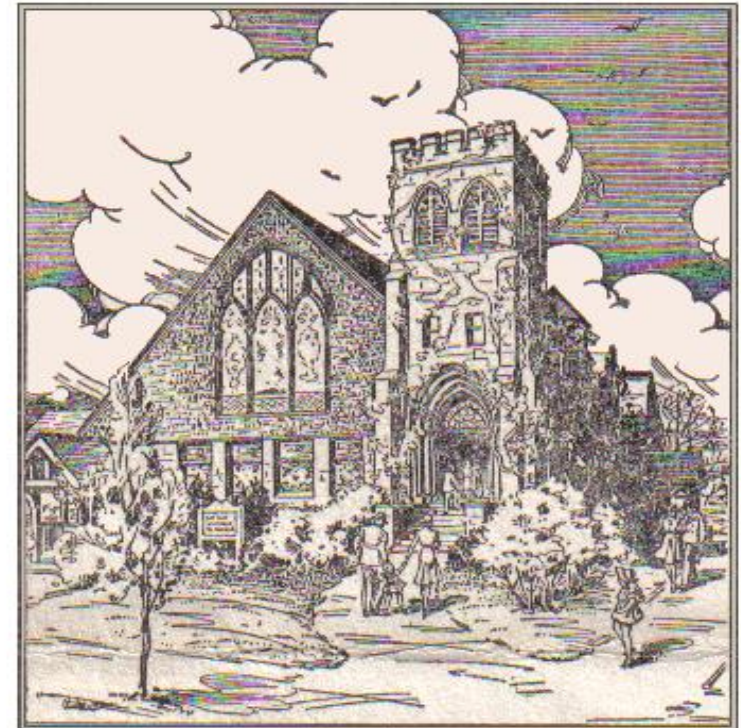
Jim Costello, Sexton

**Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service:**

Worship Leader: Rev. Bruce Taylor

Music: Russell Tripp

Tech Volunteers: Ann and Robert Heintz



**Christmas Eve**

*We are glad you are among us today.*

To honor and be present to this sacred space and time,  
please silence your cell phones.

*“He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.”*

*~Luke 1:52*

## Evening Songs

**Hymn #224 Let Christmas Come**  
*Words: John Hanly Morgan; music: English melody*

**Hymn #1061 For So the Children Come**  
*Words: Sophia Lyon Fahs; music: Jason Shelton*

## The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

**Prelude Christmas Pastorale** *Marco Enrico Bossi*

**Call to Worship Christmas Returns** *Howard Thurman*

## Welcome and Greeting

**Chalice Lighting** *Fra Giovanni*

## ◆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 #244 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

*Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears; music: Richard Storrs Willis*

## Candles of Joy, Transition and Hope

## Readings and Music: The Nativity Story

**First Reading: Magnificat (Luke 1:26-38, 1:46-55)**

**Hymn #246 O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 and 2)**  
*Words: Phillips Brooks; music: Lewis H. Redner*

**Second Reading: Her Firstborn Son (Luke 2:1-7)**

**Hymn #228 Once in Royal David's City (verses 1 and 2)**  
*Words: Carl G. Seaburg; music: Henry John Gauntlett*

**Third Reading: Shepherds in the Field (Luke 2:8-14)**

**Hymn #231 Angels We Have Heard On High (verses 1 and 2)**  
*Words: Earl Marlatt; music: French carol*

**Fourth Reading: The Child Lying in the Manger (Luke 2:15-19)**

**Hymn #1061 For So the Children Come**  
*Words: Sophia Lyon Fahs; music: Jason Shelton*

**Christmas Meditation and Prayer** *Howard Thurman*

**Special Offering to Benefit La Colaborativa -**  
*<https://la-colaborativa.org>*

**Music Prelude No. 9 in E J. S. Bach**

## Offering response:

We are grateful for these gifts we have received,  
that sustain us and affirm  
the ministries of our church community.

## ◆Lighting of Candles

*The congregation is invited to form a circle around the outside of the sanctuary, and light their candles, one from the other.*

**Hymn #251 Silent Night, Holy Night**  
*Words: Joseph Mohr; music: Franz Xaver Gruber*

**Benediction The Work of Christmas** *Howard Thurman*

◆You are invited to rise as you are able.