

Saturday, December 24, 2022
***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; Facebook: ***Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford***; email: 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

Molly Ruggles, Music Director: music@uumedford.org

Mimi Olivier, Director of the Children's Program: dre@uumedford.org

Brenda Bonetti, Church Office Admin.: uumedford@uumedford.org

Jim Costello, Sexton

Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service:

Minister: Rev. Bruce Taylor

Music: Molly Ruggles & UUCM Choir

Evening Song/Hymn Leader: Alex Cumming

Tech Volunteers: Loretta Hubley, Steve Schmidt, Carol Schachet



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.

“But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart”~Luke 2:19

Evening Songs

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

***Hymn #225** **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**
Words: Latin c. 9th century, trans. John Mason Neale;
Music: Adapted by Thomas Helmore

The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude **Away in a Manger** *James Murray*

Call to Worship **Gifts on My Altar** *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 #239** **Go Tell It On the Mountain**
Words & Music: unknown enslaved African American composer

Candles of Joy, Transition and Hope

Music **For So The Children Come**
UUCM choir & Rev. Bruce Taylor
Words: Sophia Lyon Fahs; music: Jason Shelton

Story for All Ages **The Christmas Angel**
Henry Van Dyke (adapted)

Readings and Music: the Nativity Story

First Reading: Mary and Joseph **Luke 2:1,4-7**

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

Second Reading: Shepherds in the Fields **Luke 2:8-14**

***Hymn #244** **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (verses 1 and 2)**
Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears; music: Richard Storrs Willis

Third Reading: The Child in the Manger **Luke 2:15-20**

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

Fourth Reading: Three Kings **Matthew 2:1-3,7-12**

***Hymn #245** **Joy to the World**
Words: Isaac Watts; music: Georg Frederick Handel

Meditation and Prayer

Special Offering to Benefit Afghan Refugees

Music **Do You Hear What I Hear?**
Words: Noël Regney; music: Gloria Shayne Baker

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*

Postlude **Silent Night, Holy Night**

*You are invited to rise as you are able.