

Sunday, December 24, 2023
***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***
Mimi Olivier, Director of Religious Education: ***dre@uumedford.org***
Brenda Bonetti, Church Office Admin.: ***uumedford@uumedford.org***
Jim Costello, Sexton
The Caring Team: ***uucm-caring@groups.io***

Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service:

Minister: Rev. Bruce Taylor
Music: Russell Tripp
Tech Volunteers: Loretta Hubley, Mary MacNamee



Choosing Hope

We are glad you are among us today.

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

“Where there is no vision, the people perish”~Proverbs 29:18

Morning Songs

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

***Hymn #232 The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem**
Words: Royce J. Scherf; music: from The Southern
Harmony

***Hymn #234 In the Gentle of the Moon**
Words: Carl G. Seaburg; music: Hasidic tune

The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude **O Sanctissima** *Sicilian melody*

Call to Worship (responsive reading) **Hope Rises**
John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker

Welcome and Greeting

Chalice Lighting *Denise Tracy*

*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 #12 O Life That Maketh All Things New**
Words: Samuel Longfellow; music: Thomas Williams's
Psalmodia Evangelica

A Time for All Ages 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
Clement Clarke Moore

Children's Parting Song: Go in Peace

Words: Li Kynvi; music: Andey Amata and Molly Ruggles

Our beloveds, we are with you; go in peace.
May the spirit of love surround you; go in peace.
(repeat)

Opportunity for Generosity:

Music **Within the Shining of a Star**
Betsy Jo Angebrannt

Offering response:

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

Candles of Joys, Sorrows and Milestones

Music **Interlude** *Arr. From Felix Mendelssohn*

Prayer or Meditation **How The Light Comes**
Jan Richardson

Silent Meditation

***Hymn #344 A Promise Through the Ages Rings**
Words: Alicia S. Carpenter; music: Severus Gastorius

Sermon **Choosing Hope**

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

***Community Closing and Benediction** *Carl G. Seaburg*

Postlude **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**
Trad. English tune arranged by R. Vaughan Williams

*You are invited to rise as you are able.