

Sunday, December 31, 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](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)  
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  
The Caring Team: [uucm-caring@groups.io](mailto:uucm-caring@groups.io)

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

Lay Leader: Susan Jhirad  
Music: Russell Tripp  
Tech Volunteers: Andey Amata, Michael Glenn



***Unitarian Principles and Israel-Palestine***

*We are glad you are among us today.*

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

*“If I am not for Myself, then who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? If not now, when?”~Rabbi Hillel*

### Morning Songs

**\*Hymn #1008**    **When Our Heart is in a Holy Place**  
*Joyce Polley*

**\*Hymn #1017**    **Building a New Way**  
*Martha Sandefer*

**\*Hymn #160**    **Far Too Long, by Fear Divided**  
*John Andrew Story, J.F. Naue*

### The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

**Prelude**                      **Prelude in G Minor**                      *J. S. Bach*

**Call to Worship**    **What Christmas Means to Me as a Muslim**  
*Omer Aziz*

### Welcome and Greeting

**Chalice Lighting**                      **#507**                      *Jewish Prayer*

### \*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 #127**    **Can I See Another's Woe**                      *William Blake*

**A Time for All Ages**                      **Who Started it?**                      *Susan Jhirad*

### 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**                      **Andante**                      *Christian Heinrich Rinck*

### 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

**Prayer or Meditation**                      **For Warmth**                      *Thich Nhat Hanh*

### Silent Meditation

**Hymn #159**    **This is My Song**                      *Lloyd Stone, Jean Sibelius*

**Sermon**                      **Unitarian Principles and Israel-Palestine**

### Open mic “talk back”

**Hymn #302**                      **Children of the Human Race**  
*Lloyd Stone, Jean Sibelius*

**\*Community Closing and Benediction**                      **#709**                      *James 1*

**Postlude**                      **O Liberating Rose**                      *Music: Larry Phillips*

\*You are invited to rise as you are able.