

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024
**Unitarian Universalist Church
of Medford**

**Charles Dickens:
Unitarian?**



Susan Jhirad

“Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires and a touch that never hurts.”

Charles Dickens

Morning Songs

Hymn #119 Once to every Soul and Nation

Words: James Russell Lowell; music: Thomas John Williams

Hymn #203 All Creatures of the Earth and Sky

Words: St. Francis of Assisi; music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude: *Venetianisches Gondellied*, from Songs Without Words, Op. 30

by Felix Mendelssohn, favorite composer of Charles Dickens

Call to Worship: A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

Welcome and Greeting

Our Story

Chalice Lighting: #454

Christine Robinson

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 #318 We Would be One Words: Anthony Wright; Music: Jean Sibelius

A Time for All Ages: The Man who invented Christmas

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: Chorale #56

JS Bach

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"/"Meditation": #588

Isaiah 58

Silent Meditation

Hymn #1022 Open the Window

Elise Witt, inspired by African American Spiritual

Sermon: Charles Dickens: Unitarian

with Margery Gans

Hymn #308: The Blessings of the Earth and Sky

Words: Kenneth Patton; music: Johann Hermann Schein

Community Closing:

Charles Dickens

Postlude: *Der Vogelfänger bin ich Ja,*

from The Magic Flute by WA Mozart, favorite composer of Charles Dickens

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.

For more information about the church:

Website: **www.uumedford.org**

Facebook: **Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford**

Email: **office@uumedford.org**

Telephone: **(781) 396-4549**

Welcoming Congregation

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford 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

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

Sage Fogle, Music Director: music@uumedford.org

Jim Costello, Sexton

Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service

Service Leader: Susan Jhirad

Music: Sage Fogle

Tech Volunteers: April Evans, Steve Schmidt, Nate Douglas