

**Kearsarge Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**



**Andover, New Hampshire
Sunday, December 13, 2020**



December 13, 2020

“KUUF Winter Solstice Service”

Guest Speaker: Tom Graves



Gathering Music – “Christmas Carol from Anjou” César Franck

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – “O Come, Little Children” Schulz

Opening Words –

A Story for All Ages

A Candle-lighting Festival of Readings and Song

First Reading – Celebration of Ancient Traditions

First Candle Lighter – Tom Maloof

Carol – Yule Fires

Second Reading – A Festival of the Birth of Jesus

Second Candle Lighter – Donna Peirce

Carol – #244 “*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*”

Third Reading – A Festival of Evergreens

Third Candle Lighter – Roger Wells

Carol – #235 “*Deck the Hall with boughs of Holly*”

Fourth Reading – A Festival of Giving and Sharing

Fourth Candle Lighter – Henry Howell

Carol – 253 “*O Come All Ye Faithful*”

Fifth Reading – A Festival of Joy

Fifth Candle Lighter – Yvonne Howard

Carol – #245 “*Joy to the World*”

Offertory Music – “Variations on Greensleeves” anon. 16th Century

Offering – Please send check to: KUUF P.O. Box 1578, New London, NH 03527

Offertory Response (to “Old Hundredth”)

Carol – I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Closing Words – “Yule Poem” Susan Cooper

Postlude – “Noel” Daquin



Music: Martha Woodward



Opening Words



Welcome. We are gathered here, young and old, at this time of Christmas to celebrate the richest of holidays, which comes to us from many times and many places. May the candles we light this holiday season remind us of the love that glows within our hearts. May the carols we sing uplift our spirits and renew our vision and hope. May the time we spend with family and friends strengthen the bonds of caring between us – now, and throughout the coming year.

A Story for All Ages



SHOOTING AT THE STARS: THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

by John Hendrix

Published in 2014, it is a fictionalized picture-book retelling of the true story of the Christmas Truce of 1914 that happened between the British and the Germans in World War I. The story is written as a British soldier's letter to his mother. It is Christmas Eve, and snow is falling, freezing the mud solid. From the British trenches, they hear singing from the German trenches. The Germans were singing "Silent Night," and Christmas trees were lit with candles and lanterns. And on Christmas Day, a British lieutenant crossed the barbed wire to meet the German officer, in the middle of the no-man's land.

"They met and shook hands. ...

Christmas was spent with the British and Germans at peace in the no-man's land between the trenches. When the major returned to the trench and was angry that the British had befriended the enemy, he ordered them to fire. The last lines of the soldier's letter reads:

"When the major returns, we will have to follow his orders. But I suspect our side will spend the rest of the night aiming high above their trench, shooting at the stars."

A Story for All Ages



Christmas is the Celebration of Ancient Traditions.

The festival that we call Christmas is one of the oldest and most enduring of human celebrations. Since the dawn of time people have greeted the longest night of the year with light and fire and thanksgiving. This longest night marks the time of the year's turning, when the sun - our source of warmth and light - retreats from darkness and grows strong again. This turning of the earth gives a promise of renewing life, as the sun climbs the heavens and darkness retreats further each day.

Every system of worship has adapted itself to the great mid-winter celebration. Long before there were Christians, there was Christmas - by other names. Each faith grafts its customs and meanings onto the celebration that is there. In celebrating Christmas, then, we connect somehow with our whole human tribe - far back into its prehistory - and far forward into its future. This morning we shall be enriched by the myths and visions of people from the dawn of history in lands all around the earth. And we celebrate the midwinter festival with them.

First Candle Lighting

Tom Maloof

IN THIS TIME WHEN THE DAYS GROW SHORT, THE TIME OF THE LONG NIGHT, THE DARKNESS AND THE COLD – WE LIGHT THIS CANDLE. LIGHT IN OUR HEARTS THE LIGHT OF FAITH. EACH OF US HAS FACED OUR OWN TIME OF DARKNESS; WE HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED AND LONELY; WE HAVE BEEN AFRAID. YET WE TRUST THAT WE, TOO, WILL FIND LIGHT FOR OUR DARKNESS, AND WILL TURN AGAIN TO LIFE WITH COURAGE AND HOPE. _



YULE FIRES

John G. MacKinnon

Greensleeves

English Traditional

Sprightly (♩ = c. 42)

p In an - cient days_ the folk of old_ when chill'd with fright_ by win - ter's cold, Did
So we, whose minds now sense a chill_ of dan - ger in_ the ev - il will, The

kin - die up_ a great Yule fire_ With leap - ing flames_ in its great pyre,
hu - man con - flict, hate and strife, Which hold a men - ace ov - er life;

f So to en - tire_ the wan - ing sun_ to rise a - gain_ and wi - der run;
Would kin - die up_ a flame of love_ that we with - in_ our hearts may move,

A fier - y course_ a - cross the sky_ To warm_ them so_ they need not die.
In yule - tide joy_ to love our race_ And thus_ a - bid_ in peace and grace.

Yule Fires

Greensleeves

John G. MacKinnon

English Translation

In ancient days the folk of old,...when chill'd with fright~~~ by winter's cold,
Did kindle up~~~ a great Yule fire,~~~ With leaping flames in it's great pyre.
So to entice~~~ the waning sun ~~~ to rise again,~~~ and wider run.
A fiery course~~~ across the sky. ~~~To warm—they so~~~ they need not die.

So we, whose minds now sense a chill – of danger in ~~ the evil will.
The Human conflict, hate and strife, Which hold a menace over life.
Would kindle up ~~ a flame of love – that we within ~~ our hearts may move,
In yuletide joy, ~~~ to love our race~~~ And thus ~~~ abide ~~~ in peace and grace.

READER:

Christmas Is the Festival of the Birth of Jesus.

(From Song: Why Christianity Must Change...)

No one knows at what time of year Jesus was born, but long after his death, when the growing Christian Church wanted to celebrate his birthday, church leaders decreed that it should be at the time of the most beloved and universal festival in the experience of people the world over – the midwinter solstice celebration. So to the old festivals were added new celebrations honoring the life of Jesus. Christians recognized that the God who had been perceived as holy and apart, now was revealed to be present in the heart of human life. That is why angels were said to have sung and stars were said to have appeared in the eastern sky as a sign of that birth. That is why wise men and shepherds were said to have journeyed from near and far to worship this moment of revelation. The God met in Jesus was not to be a limited God, the revelation of a national or tribal deity. The birth was a sign that the infinite could be known in the finite, that the eternal could be met in that which is transitory, and that the divine and the human could not be separated. These are the realities that underlie the Christmas stories.... Their truth extends far beyond the literalized symbols of the birth narratives.... We, humans then, [as exemplified by Jesus], are God bearers, the revealers of the God who is present in all of life.”

Second Candle Lighting

Donna Pierce

CHRISTMAS HAS COME ONCE MORE TO EARTH. LIGHT IN OUR HEARTS THE LIGHT OF HOPE. LET US REMEMBER THAT THE GREAT AND HOLY MAY SOMETIMES BE FOUND IN UNLIKELY PLACES. IN THE MOST HUMBLE SURROUNDINGS BABES ARE BORN INTO THE WORLD WHO WILL BECOME THE SOURCE OF A GREAT LIGHT TO HUMAN~KIND. MAY WE REMEMBER THAT IN EACH OF US BURNS A BRIGHT AND UNQUENCHABLE LIGHT.



It Came upon the Midnight Clear

$\text{♩} = 56$

The musical score is written in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 56. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with
 3. But with the woes of war and strife the
 4. For, lo! the days are has - tening on by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled; and still their heaven - ly
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the an - gel -
 proph - et bards fore - told, when with the ev - er -

near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. A -
 strain have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong; and
 cir - cling years comes round the age of gold: when

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Continued

on the earth, to all good will, from
-bove its sad and low - ly plains they
we who fight the wars hear not the
peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven the news we bring." The world in sol - emn
bend on hov - ering wing; and ev - er o'er its
love song which they bring. O hush the noise of
an - cient splen - dors fling, and the whole world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
bat - tle strife, and hear the an - gels sing.
back the song which now the an - gels sing.

⊕ Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1810-1876
Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1819-1900

CAROL
C.M.D.

READER:

Christmas is the Festival of Evergreens.

The tree is one of the great biblical metaphors, a symbol of life, hope, and fruitfulness. Season by season it gathers within itself the energies of earth's sunlight in the upward thrust of life: in the season of greening and growth, explosive with ripeness; through the dark season, quietly enduring, as dormant energies await the signal once again to celebrate the spring. But the origin of the tree-symbol is much older than the Bible, much older than Israel. It begins with the evergreen – among all trees the special symbol of life in the midst of death, a fragrant and visible reminder of nature's annual promise. Our ancient ancestors adorned the sacred tree that stood before the house of the gods, hanging on it fern seeds and wreaths of mistletoe, garlands of myrtle and ivy, whose spirits manifested fire and life. From branches of trees they hung small lamps, each with its bowl of fat and cedar wick, like a hill-top fire, to guide the sun god back from the abode of darkness.

Third Candle Lighting

Roger Wells

WE LIGHT THIS CANDLE TO REMIND US OF THE PROMISE OF THE EVERGREEN. MAY ITS BEAUTY HELP US KEEP FAITH IN OUR POWER TO BRING LIFE INTO THE WORLD, AND THUS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD. THIS THIRD CANDLE WE LIGHT FOR ALL THE GREENS OF CHRISTMAS – THE FIR TREES, THE WREATHS ON DOORS AND WINDOWS, THE HOLLY AND THE IVY, FOR THEIR BEAUTY AND HOPE, AND THE GLADNESS AND WARMTH THEY BRING TO OUR FROZEN WORLD.



Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly

$\text{♩} = 76$

Eb Bb7 Cm Bb Eb Bb7 Eb Fm

1. Deck the hall with boughs of hol - ly,
2. See the blaz - ing Yule be - fore us, fa la la la la, la
3. Fast a - way the old year pass - es,

Eb Bb Eb Eb Bb7 Cm Bb Eb

la la la. 'Tis the sea - son to be jol - ly,
Strike the harp and join the cho - rus,
Hail the new, ye lads and lass - es,

Bb7 Eb Fm Eb Bb Eb Bb Bb7

fa la la la la, la la la la. Don we now our
Fol - low me in
Sing we joy - ous

Eb Bb Eb Gm Cm7 Bb F7 Bb Eb Bb

gay ap - par - el, Troll the an - cient
mer - ry meas - ure, fa la la la la la, la la la. While I tell of
all to - geth - er, Heed - less of the

Cm Bb Eb Ab Eb Fm Eb Bb7 Eb

Yule - tide car - ol,
Yule - tide treas - ure, fa la la la la, la la la la.
wind and weath - er,

READER:

Christmas is a Festival of Giving and Sharing.

The custom of gift giving comes to us from the distant past. In Spanish speaking countries, especially, the tradition of gifts for the Christ child is still followed. People in other countries celebrate the story of Saint Nicholas, a bishop who lived over 1500 years ago. He was rich and used his wealth to help the poor without leaving his name. Once three girls were to be sold into slavery because their father had no money for a dowry. According to the legend, Bishop Nicholas, to avoid being seen, dropped three bags of gold, one for each daughter, down the chimney where they landed in the daughters' shoes, which had been left on the hearth to dry. Today in our Christmas stockings we find oranges, tangerines, or gold-covered chocolate coins as symbols of gold in our Christmas stockings hung at the fireplace. Christmas is a festival of giving and sharing, a time of secrets and surprises. The babe in Bethlehem was a gift – to his parents and to the world. The gifts of Christmas are the gifts of life itself, and of love, which makes life possible. And the gifts of song, of grace, of beauty, the gifts of sharing the best we have with those we love.

Fourth Candle Lighting

Henry Howell

AT THIS TIME OF THE GIVING OF GIFTS —
LOVINGLY MADE AND CAREFULLY CHOSEN —
AT THIS TIME OF SHARING THAT WHICH IS
DEEPEST AND DEAREST TO US, LIGHT IN OUR
HEARTS THE LIGHT OF LOVE. HEAL THE
WOUNDS OF MISUNDERSTANDING. HELP US
TO REACH OUT WITH JOY AND GRACE TO
RECEIVE THE GIFTS WHICH LIFE AND LOVE
OFFER US. SUSTAIN OUR HOPES AND LABORS
TOGETHER UNTIL THE TIME WHEN ALL PEOPLE
SHALL COME INTO THE CIRCLE OF PEACE.



O Come, All Ye Faithful

$\text{♩} = 60$

1. A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -
 1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Lo, hum - ble shep - herds, hast - ing to his cra - dle,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O

ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem. Na - tum vi -
 come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be -
 leav - ing their flocks in the fields, draw near. We, too, with
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to

de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 hold him, born the King of an - gels; ve - ni - te, a - do - re - mus, ve -
 glad - ness, thith - er bend our foot - steps;
 God, all glo - ry in the high - est;

ni - te, a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te, a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

READER:

Christmas is the Festival of Joy.

This is the time of feasting and fun, of singing and visiting, of friends and family reunited, of glittering trees and lighted houses, of stockings and presents, of fires and candles, of stories of a tiny child in a manger – all the bright heritage which has come down to us as members of the great human family. The joy of Christmas belongs to those who have vision enough to seek a guiding star in the dark mystery that girdles the earth. The joy of Christmas belongs to those who, in the midst of darkness, light candles in the night.

Fifth Candle Lighting

Yvonne Howard

IN THIS HAPPY SEASON, LIGHT IN OUR HEARTS
THE LIGHT OF JOY. TO MISS THE JOY OF
CHRISTMAS IS TO MISS ITS MOST SACRED SECRET.
LET EACH OF US BUILD INTO OUR CHRISTMAS ALL
THAT IS BRIGHT AND WARM AND JOYFUL. LET
THERE COME INTO OUR HEARTS THE WISDOM TO
BE AS A CHILD FOR A LITTLE TIME. LET US WARM
OURSELVES BY THE FIRE OF IMAGINATION. LET US
LEARN THE ABIDING WISDOM IN POETRY,
LEGEND AND SONG. LET THIS BE THE SEASON
WHERE WISDOM AND TIME ARE OURS FOR THE
SEEKING AND ASKING. AND WHERE JOY MAY
ABOUND.



245

Joy to the World!

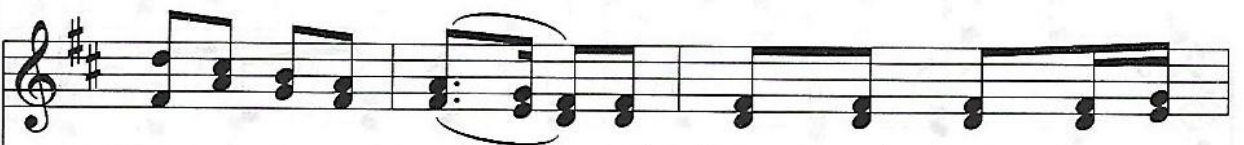
♩ = 100



1. Joy to the world! The Word is come: let earth with
 2. Joy to the earth! Now glad-ness reigns: let hearts their
 3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-



prais - es ring. Let ev - ery heart pre -
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks,
 fest the ground. Let right - eous - ness its



pare a room, and heaven and na - ture
 hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing
 glor - ies show as far as love is



245

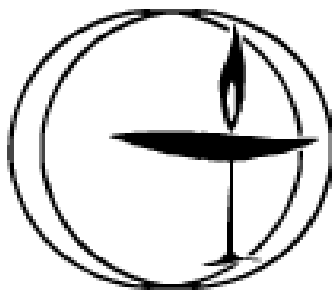
Joy to the World! Continued

The musical score is written for a vocal part with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score is divided into two systems, each with a treble and bass staff.

sing, and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 found, as far as love is found, as
 heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as love is found, as far as love is
 heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 far, as far, as love is found.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: *Methodist Collection of Tunes*, 1833COMFORT
C.M.



Offering to KUUF

Mail Check to:

KUUF

P.O. Box 1578,

New London, NH 03257



Offertory Response

(to "Old Hundredth")

Please sing along from the comfort of your home

From all that dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope and love arise
Let beauty, truth and good be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Henry W. Longfellow, 1863

J. Baptiste Caumon, 1872

Andante

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day Their
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The
 3. And in de-spair I bow'd my head; "There
 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "Love

f

old fa-mil-iar car-ols play, And wild and sweet the
 bel-fries of all Christ-en-dom Had roild a-long thun
 is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and
 is not dead, nor doth *f* sleep; The wrong shall fail, the

words re-peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 bro-ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."
 right pre-vail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

p

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Henry W. Longfellow, 1863

J. Baptiste Calkin, 1872

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day Their
Old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the
Words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The
Belfries of all Christendom, Had roll'd along that
Broken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
3. And in despair I bow'd my head: "There
Is no peace in earth", I said, "For hate is strong and
mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."
4. Then, pealed the bells more loud and deep: "Love
Is not dead, nor doth it sleep; The wrong shall fail, the
Right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

CLOSING WORDS



"Yule Poem" Susan Cooper

The Shortest Day

"So the shortest day came, and the year died,
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world
Came people singing, dancing,
To drive the dark away.
They lighted candles in the winter trees;
They hung their homes with evergreen;
They burned beseeching fires all night long
To keep the year alive,
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake
They shouted, reveling.
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them
Echoing behind us ~ Listen!!
All the long echoes sing the same delight,
This shortest day,
As promise awakens in the sleeping land:
They carol, fest, give thanks,
And dearly love their friends,
And hope for peace.
And so do we, here, now,
This year and every year.
Welcome Yule!!"

It's
COFFEE
time





December 13, 2020
"KUUF Winter Solstice Service"
Guest Speaker: Tom Graves



- Start Recording
- **Gathering Music** –
"Christmas Carol from Anjou"
César Franck
- **Welcome and Announcements**
- **Prelude** – "O Come, Little Children" Schulz
- **Opening Words** –
- **A Story for All Ages**
- **A Candle-lighting Festival of Readings and Song**
- **First Reading** – Celebration of Ancient Traditions
- **First Candle Lighter** – Tom Maloof
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- **Third Reading** – A Festival of Evergreens
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- **Carol** – #235 "*Deck the Hall with boughs of Holly*"
- **Fourth Reading** – A Festival of Giving and Sharing
- **Fourth Candle Lighter** – Henry Howell
- **Carol** – 253 "*O Come All Ye Faithful*"
- **Fifth Reading** – A Festival of Joy
- **Fifth Candle Lighter** – Yvonne Howard
- **Carol** – #245 "*Joy to the World*"
- **Offertory Music** – "Variations on Greensleeves" anon. 16th Century
- **Offering** – Please send check to: KUUF P.O. Box 1578, New London, NH 03527
- **Offertory Response** (to "Old Hundredth")
- **Carol** – I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
- **Closing Words** – "Yule Poem" Susan Cooper
- **Postlude** – "Noel" Daquin
- Stop Recording