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**Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater**

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**Date:** *December 13, 2020*

**Sermon:** *"The Mystery of Hannukah"*

**Rev. Roberta**

**Our Vision:** An inclusive religious community, a beacon for reason, meaning and bold social action.

**Our Mission:** To celebrate dignity and respect for all, nurture lifelong spiritual growth, act for justice and equality, and serve the wider community.

**Welcome:**

Ed Kraemer

**Prelude:**

"Footsteps In The Snow" by Claude Debussy

**Call to Worship:**

"Each Candle a Miracle" by Amanda Udis-Kessler

During the eight days of Hanukkah, candles are lighted in a spirit of wonder, joy, and gratitude, each candle a miracle.

As we come together in worship this morning, let us rededicate ourselves to the miracle of light in a season of darkness

to the miracle of trust in a time of anxiety

to the miracle of hope in a time of despair

to the miracle of faith in a time of cynicism.

Let us rededicate ourselves to the miracle of wholeness in a time of fracture

to the miracle of courage in a time of fear

to the miracle of resistance in a time of oppression

to the miracle of peace in a time of violence

and in a time of hatred, let us rededicate ourselves to the miracle of love.

Come, let us worship together.

**Chalice Lighting:**

Chalice Lighting by Dawn Fortune

We light this chalice as a symbol of our free faith.

We light this chalice to remember the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days.

We light this chalice to mark the nights of midwinter.

We light this chalice as we wait for the sun to return.

**Opening Hymn:**

Hymn #83 "Winds Be Still"



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**Joys and Sorrows:**

Rev. Roberta

**Spoken Meditation:**

Ed Kraemer

Hymn #1031 "Filled With Loving Kindness"

**Time for All Ages:**

**Offertory Message:**

For online giving: <https://uuc.breezechms.com/give/online>

For text giving: (727) 500-2410

**Interlude:**

"Velvet Shoes" by Randall Thompson

**Sermon: *"The Mystery of Hanukkah"***

**Rev. Roberta Finkelstein**

**Closing Hymn:**

Hymn #221 "Light One Candle"



## Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater

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### **Benediction:**

“UU Hanukkah Blessings” by Lorenzo Bassman

We honor the great mystery of the universe, the source of all, which deems everything sacred by its power to unite us and gives us the radiance that we bring forth together as we kindle the Hanukkah lights.

We celebrate the spirit of life, wellspring of all that we perceive and imagine, as we look upon with reverence the wondrous great fortune which has been bestowed upon our ancestors throughout antiquity.

We cherish the wonder of each thing, the order of the universe that binds us together with all of nature, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

### **Extinguishing the Chalice:**

*“Go in peace, go making peace, live gently, love mightily and bow to the mystery”*

*We are a spiritually diverse congregation. Whoever you are, whomever you love, whatever your life situation, wherever you are on your spiritual path, thank you for choosing to worship with us.*

### **Our Grateful Thanks:**

**Worship Associate:** Ed Kraemer; **Service Technical Support:** Jeremy Dillow; **UUC Music:** Dr. David Katz, UUC Music Director; Linda Jones, UUC Staff Accompanist; Emily Righter, Alto Section Leader and Soloist; **Staff:** Rev. Dave, PPCM; Rev. Roberta, Transitional Minister; Anne Gilbert, Office Administrator; Meredith Olson, Transitional Director of Religious Enrichment; Gary Strauss, Security Guard; Susan Strauss, Custodian **Pastoral Associates:** Susan Hegner (December 7 – December 13); Sally Otto (December 14 – December 21).

**Special Thanks to L. Wood for the beautiful and inspiring UUC original artwork**





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**Opening Hymn #83 "Winds Be Still"**

Winds be still.

Storm clouds pass and silence come.

Peace grace this time with harmony.

Fly, bird of hope, and shine, light of love,  
and in calm let all find tranquility.

Bird fly high.

Lift our gaze toward distant view.

Help us to sense life's mystery.

Fly high and far, and lead us each to see  
how we move through the winds of eternity.

Light shine in.

Luminate our inward view.

Help us to see with clarity.

Shine bright and true so we may join our songs  
in new sounds that become full symphony.

**Joys and Sorrows**

**Hymn #1031 Filled With Loving Kindness"**

May I be filled with loving kindness. May I be well.

May I be filled with loving kindness. May I be well.

May I be peaceful and at ease.

May I be whole.

May you be filled ...

May we be filled ...



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**Closing Hymn**

**Hymn #221 "Light One Candle"**

Light one candle for the Maccabee children with thanks that their light didn't die.  
Light one candle for the pain they endured when their right to exist was denied.  
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice justice and freedom demand.  
But light one candle for the wisdom to know when the peacemaker's time is at hand.

(Chorus)

Don't let the light go out, it's lasted for so many years.  
Don't let the light go out, let it shine through our love and our tears.

Light one candle for the strength that we need to never become our own foe.  
Light one candle for those who are suff'ring the pain we learned so long ago.  
Light one candle for all we believe in, that anger won't tear us apart.  
And light one candle to bring us together with peace as the song in our heart.

(Chorus)

What is the mem'ry that's valued so highly we keep it alive in that flame?  
What's the commitment to those who have died when we cry out they've not died in  
vain?  
Have we come this far always believing that justice would somehow prevail?  
This is the burden and this is the promise and this is why we will not fail.

(Chorus)