



Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater

Date: *December 20, 2020*

Sermon: *"The Gifts that Have Used Me"*

Rev. Dave

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:

"Winter Solstice" by Rebecca Parker

Perhaps
for a moment
the typewriters will stop clicking,
the wheels stop rolling
the computers desist from computing,
and a hush will fall over the city.
For an instant, in the stillness,
the chiming of the celestial spheres will be heard
as earth hangs poised
in the crystalline darkness, and then
gracefully
tilts.
Let there be a season
when holiness is heard, and
the splendor of living is revealed.
Stunned to stillness by beauty
we remember who we are and why we are here.
There are inexplicable mysteries.
We are not alone.
In the universe there moves a Wild One
whose gestures alter earth's axis
toward love.
In the immense darkness
everything spins with joy.
The cosmos enfolds us.
We are caught in a web of stars,
cradled in a swaying embrace,
rocked by the holy night,
babes of the universe.
Let this be the time
we wake to life,
like spring wakes, in the moment
of winter solstice.



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Social Justice Report

Prelude:

"Carol of The Birds" by John Jacob Niles

Call to Worship:

"Making Room for All That Is" (revised) by Lyn Cox

Spirit of Life, ancestor of the stars and the sun, you who embrace the vastness of space and us along with it, be with us today.

Hold us in our worry, our exhaustion, our grief.

Keep us close as we sit with our truth, whatever that may be.

Lead us to rest in the quiet, to find solace and renewal in this time of shifting light and dark.

You whose arms open with the spinning galaxies, help us to make room, as you do, for all that is.

Open our hearts to our loved ones, our neighbors, the beings with whom we share this planet.

Lead us to reach out to others in compassion. Turn us toward one another in mercy, right relationship, and reconciliation.

You who have seen the rising and setting of suns, of seasons, of civilizations, remind us of all that we have learned from the history of the world and from our own histories.

Give us the courage to face our mistakes, and to repair them whenever possible.

Help us understand our interdependence, our gravitational relatedness with all of the other spinning lives around us, and lead us to treat those relationships with care.

In this space, filled with the people among us who shine like stars, this space filled with the sparkle of love and care, we give thanks for this moment to be together.

May our senses be open to the beauty of this day, this season, this world.

Chalice Lighting:

"Chalice Lighting for Winter Solstice" by Sharon Wylie

This solstice eve - - In honor of ancient traditions that celebrate this time of longest night,

We observe that the flaming chalice holds the elements of the four directions:

Earth, air, fire, water.

The lamp oil for earth The air that feeds the flame The fire we light.

And the chalice itself, the cup, the symbol of water

We light our chalice and reflect on the light we need to guide us through hard times:

the light of our shared faith,

the light of loving community,

the light of love, joy, and hope.

Opening Hymn:

Hymn #20 "Be Thou My Vision"

Joys and Sorrows:

Hymn #1031 "Filled With Loving Kindness"

Time for All Ages:



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Offertory Message:

"The Moment of Magic" by Victoria E Safford

Now is the moment of magic, when the whole, round earth turns again toward the sun, and here's a blessing:
the days will be longer and brighter now, even before the winter settles in to chill us.

Now is the moment of magic, when people beaten down and broken,
with nothing left but misery and candles and their own clear voices,
kindle tiny lights and whisper secret music, and here's a blessing:

the dark universe is suddenly illuminated by the lights of the menorah,
suddenly ablaze with the lights of the kinara,
and the whole world is glad and loud with winter singing.

Now is the moment of magic, when an eastern star beckons the ignorant toward an unknown goal,
and here's a blessing:

they find nothing in the end but an ordinary baby, born at midnight, born in poverty, and the baby's cry, like
bells ringing,
makes people wonder as they wander through their lives, what human love might really look like, sound like,
feel like.

Now is the moment of magic, and here's a blessing:

we already possess all the gifts we need;
we've already received our presents:
ears to hear music,
eyes to behold lights,
hands to build true peace on earth
and to hold each other tight in love.

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

For text giving: (727) 500-2410

Interlude:

"Carol of The Bells" Ukrainian Folk Song; Arr. by George Winston

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Closing Hymn:

Hymn #235 "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly"



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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: Michael Kahn; **Service Technical Support:** Jeremy Dillow; **UUC Music:** Dr. David Katz, UUC Music Director; Linda Jones, UUC Staff Accompanist; Culver Casson, Soprano Section Leader and Soloist; Diego Iglesias, Tenor 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:** Sally Otto (December 14 – December 20); Kathy Krohn (December 21 – December 27).

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





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Opening Hymn #20 "Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O God of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me God;
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor world's empty praise,
thou my inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Sov'reign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

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 #235 "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly"

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la.

'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la la la la, la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure, fa la la la la la, la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Sing we joyous all together, fa la la la la la, la la la.

Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la, la la la la.