

"Symbol Tree" by Prairie

UU 1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Order Of Service - December 17th 2023

Prelude: "When The Song of the Angels Is Stilled"
words by Howard Thurman, music by Elizabeth Alexander. Performed by the Prairie Choir, directed by Barb Park, accompanied by Carl Wacker

Candlelight Procession of our Young People
Please hum "Silent Night" as our young people enter.

Welcome: Karen Deaton

Chalice Lighting:
Turn down the noise. Reduce the speed. Be like the somnolent bears, or those other animals that slow down and almost die in the cold season. Let it be the way it is. The magic is there in its power.
– Henry Mitchell

Story For All Ages: *Night Tree* by Eve Bunting

Children sit with their families after the story

Silent Meditation

Presentation: "Symbol Tree" by Prairie
Each of us is invited to help decorate our tree, sharing about our lives and listening to each other in celebration of our community.

Offering and Offertory: "Ya Vienen Los Reyes Magos" and "Frosty the Snowman" performed by Kira

Closing Words:
There is a blessed madness in the human need to go against the grain of cold and scarcity. We make a holiday, the rituals varied as the hopes of humanity, the reasons as obscure as ancient solar festivals, as clear as joy on one small face. - Margaret Starkey

Closing Music: "O Symbol Tree", accompanied by Carl Wacker. Lyrics shown on the back of the order of service.

Announcements

Joys/Concerns & Welcoming Guests/Visitors

Greet Your Neighbor

Past Leaders of Candlelight Procession
(most recent first): Aurora Creed, Harlan Small, Luna Small, Aaron Liu, Gavin Richards, Amber Gordon, Cecylia Richards, Jesse Cooper-Whitehead, Rachel Hughes, Caitlyn Nicholson, Cheyenne Hale, Katherine Liu, Jessie Garst, Tatum Mueller, Xena Anderson, Valerie Anderson, Mei Lien Converse, Marie Nahlik, Toby Wacker, Madeline Arnold, Erica Skog, Lushana Peterson, Judy Wacker, Katrina Schroeder



Announcements



4th Quarter Offertory

Sharing: The Catalyst Project, a mutually supportive community for up to 3 single moms and their children who have experienced homelessness.

Participants have access to collaborative problem solving, trauma informed mentoring, and therapeutic intervention. The project's founding principle is that the wisdom of those mistreated by our society is essential to creating a society that serves all its people.



Solstice Bonfire - Thursday Dec 21, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

All are invited to enjoy a fire in Prairie's back yard. Bring lawn chairs. The RE program will provide

cocoa to drink and marshmallows to toast.

Next Sunday Dec 24, 10:00am "Christmas in the Trenches" led by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski

Our friends from James Reeb UU are invited to join our service today. On Christmas Eve of World War I, British and German soldiers lay down their weapons to celebrate the holiday together. This Reader's Theater presentation has four British soldiers (performed by Prairie members) reading from letters to their loved ones. Nearly everything described is drawn from first-hand accounts in letters and diaries of the time.

Next Sunday Dec 24 in RE - We will make popcorn and explore the Christian Christmas story.

Cozy Winter Brunch - Monday Dec 25th, 10am

Bring your favorite dish and share a potluck brunch at Prairie followed by holiday music and a sing along led by Dan Proud. Bringing instruments to join in is encouraged. We've also invited our friends from James Reeb UU and the Free Congregation of Sauk County to join us. Let's eat, drink, and be merry!

Lyrics for "O, Symbol Tree"

(sung to the tune of "O, Christmas Tree")

O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
You stand for our community.
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
You stand for our community.
We gather round, both you and me.
We hang our symbols on the tree.
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
You stand for our community.

O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
From sermons now we wriggle free
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
From sermons now we wriggle free
Each year we come and take our turn,
About each other's lives we learn.
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
From sermons now we wriggle free

O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
We insist on your secularity.
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
We insist on your secularity.
The tree is pagan in origin
Then Christian - now, Unitarian.
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
We insist on your secularity.

O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
You stand for our community.
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
You stand for our community.
We gather round, both you and me.
We hang our symbols on the tree.
O Symbol Tree, O Symbol Tree,
You stand for our community.

Interweave Meeting Today

Interweave, Prairie's group for LGBTQ+ and questioning folks, as well as allies, will meet today at noon in the main meeting room. All are welcome.