



## "The Christmas Truce" led by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski

**UU 6th Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

### Order Of Service - December 24th 2023

**Prelude:** Andante from Two Duets Op. 20 by Kummer, performed by Ann Sawyer and Nancy Wunderlin

**Welcome:** Rev. Ralph Tyksinski

**Chalice Lighting:** "This Night of Mystery" by Linda Hart

We kindle a small flame,  
in the dark of the year  
remembering the promise  
of life abundant,  
of a possible peace.  
We pause on this night of mystery,  
to tell the stories,  
to sing the songs,  
and to bring more light  
into the world.

**Opening Music:** #244 SLT, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" accompanied by Karleen Tyksinski

**Story For All Ages:** *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem* by Maya Angelou, illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. Read by Genevieve McPherson-Shambarger, DRE at James Reeb UU

**Children's Recessional:** by Joyce Poley  
As you go on your way, may you be filled with Gladness.  
Go in joy, go in joy!  
May fortune bless your day with peace and loving kindness.  
Go in love, go in love.

**Silent Meditation**

**Presentation:** "The Christmas Truce" led by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski

The readers for today's presentation are Jesse Garst, Matt Wise, Adam Tyksinski, and Rev. Ralph Tyksinski

**Offering and Offertory:** "Silent Night" by Franz Gruber, performed by Ann and Nancy

**Closing Words:** "Good Tidings and Gladness" by Carter Smith

Spirit of Life  
On this eve, may we bear witness  
to the guiding lights: the lights in the sky  
That call us to gather, and to give of ourselves  
To celebrate new life.  
May we receive, and offer good tidings:  
The news that life and its seasons go on,  
That tyrannical rulers do not have the final word,  
And that despair is not everlasting.  
May our senses be awakened:  
To delight in the gifts of fragrance and warmth,  
To savor the feasts before us,  
And to revel in the feelings of laughter and embraces.  
May we breath deeply,  
As we sit with the quiet stillness of these short days.  
May our hearts beat a rhythm of gladness  
As we lift our voices to proclaim the joy of this season.  
So may it be.

**Closing Music:** "I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day" Words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Music by John B. Calkin. Performed by the Prairie Choir, directed by Barb Park, accompanied by Carl Wacker

**Announcements**

**Joys/Concerns & Welcoming Guests/Visitors**

**Greet Your Neighbor**

## 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.

### **Guest at Your Table Boxes**

Please place your Guest at Your Table boxes under our Christmas tree today. Didn't bring it this week? Please bring your box next time you come. Thank you.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

There are no services at Prairie in the evening today. If you'd like to attend an evening service, First Unitarian Society in Madison has several to choose from. View their service schedule online at [fusmadison.org](http://fusmadison.org)

### **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!

### **No Choir Rehearsal Dec 31**

There is no choir rehearsal next Sunday, Dec 31st. Rehearsal resumes the following Sunday, Jan 7th at 8:45am. If you're interested in joining the choir, please contact Barb Park.

## Announcements

### **Next Sunday Dec 31, 10:00am "Letting Go and New Beginnings" by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski**

In this New Year's Eve service we will be taking a final glimpse of the past year, and reconnect with all that it has meant for us. We invite you to take a piece of paper and reflect on the calendar year, 2023, that we are leaving, by considering what you might wish to leave behind. What parts of our lives – what things, ideas, people, ways of living – have become obstacles to our becoming the person/people you/we want to be, the person/people you/we need to be? What's holding you/us back? What's getting in the way of you/we living as fully as you/we would like to be/become? What might be burned away? What should be let go? You can also write a word or two that represents a New Year's "resolution", something to be hoped for in 2024.

Nobody will see it except you, and the flame (the flame will be burning outside and where we will be concluding the service). By Letting Go we are better prepared to enter the New Year seeking New Beginnings boldly, with curiosity, compassion, and courage.

**Next Sunday Dec 31 in RE** Children and youth of all ages will be together in our RE space to enjoy games and crafts.

### **Sunday Jan 7, 10:00am "Star Trekking Home: Welcoming Ourselves" by Rev. Pamela Rumancik**

A place to be yourself. To relax. To know you belong and are welcome. These describe the best kinds of home. As UU's we aspire to make our congregations warm and welcoming, to create a sense of coming home for those entering our doors. But, there's always a catch. What if our own sense of home makes someone else feel left out? Rev Pam will open a conversation around what we can do personally and as a congregation to widen the circle and make that space of home for all seekers on the journey. Using stories from the Sci-Fi genre –she'll invite us to widen our imaginations and see ourselves and others with new eyes. **Rev. Pamela Rumancik** is poet, native plant enthusiast and spiritual seeker retired from serving the Unitarian Church in Hinsdale, IL.