

Magnificat © Jan L. Richardson



SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**December 23, 2016
5o'clock in the evening**

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Brazos Valley**

I. ENTERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

For So The Children Come
By Sophia Lyon Fahs

II. CENTERING

Chalice Lighting

Centering Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lo, humble shepherds, Hasting to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.
We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

III. ORDERING CHAOS

First Lesson

Genesis 1:1-5

Reading

Pale Blue Dot
by Carl Sagan

Read by Karen Bachman

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
 And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
 No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

IV. BLESSINGS ABOUND

Second Lesson

Matthew 5:3-10

Reading

Choose to Bless the World
 by Rebecca Parker

Read by Vicki Carter

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
 Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come within as Faith to dwell.

O come, thou Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might,
 O come and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last shall cease.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come within as Joy to dwell.

V. IN THE DARKNESS

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reading

From Why I Write
 by Terry Tempest Williams

Read by Molly Ward

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on by prophet bards foretold,
 When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold:
 When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

VI. PEACE

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:6-9

Reading

The Season of Phantasmal Peace *Read by Katie Womack
 by Derek Walcott*

Carol

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune our hearts to sing thy grace.
 Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of life's perfection fills our hearts with joy and love,
 teach us ever to be faithful, may we still thy goodness prove.

Come, thou fount of inspiration, turn our lives to higher ways.
 Lift our gloom and desperation, show the promise of this day.
 Help us bind ourselves in union, help our hands tell of our love.
 With thine aid, O fount of justice, earth be fair as heav'n above.

VII. MAGNIFIED

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Reading

Magnificat
 by Christina Hutchins

Read by Joyce Langenegger

VIII. NEW LIFE

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, god and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host, proclaim, christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn king!

Gracious bond of earth and sky, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born king!

IX. KEEP WATCH

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Homily

“Keep Watch”

Rev. Aaron Stockwell

Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see what glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing:
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo

X. THE MAGI ARRIVE

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Reading

The Queens Came Late
by Norma Faber

Read by Carolyn Clark

Offering

*Tonight's offering benefits the Minister's Discretionary Fund,
which meets the needs of individuals and families in the Brazos Valley.*

Offertory

We Three Kings

*Sung by Joe Daigle
Accompanied by Ron Bryan*

XI. FIRST PERSON SACRED

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14

Reading

On the Mystery of Incarnation
by Denise Levertov

Read by Eleanor Ford

XII. THE LIGHT

Candlelight Carol

Silent Night! Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia,"
Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

XIII. YOUR CHARGE

Meditation

From The Mood of Christmas
by Howard Thurman

Rev. Aaron Stockwell

Candlelight Extinguishing *by Elizabeth Selle Jones*

We extinguish these flames but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we gather together again.

Benediction

Beannacht – For Josie
by John O’Donohue



Our Next Service

December 25, 2016 - 10:30 am

Christmas Past

Rev. Aaron Stockwell reflects on Christmas stories from the past.

Music will be provided by a pick-up ukulele orchestra.

If you wish to play ukulele, please arrive at 10 am to practice.

All Souls are Welcome Here

Our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition has stood for spiritual freedom for almost 500 years. We walk together as one community to transform the lives of those who gather here as we reach out to help heal our world.

We welcome those of all creeds and none, of any ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender or gender expression, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, or economic circumstance. Our diverse threads are woven together in the rich fabric of our community, rooted in our Unitarian Universalist heritage and practice.

Where Can I Find ... ?

Our campus has three main buildings:

The **Sanctuary** for worship

The **Anthony Administrative** wing

(To your left, off the patio, when you leave the sanctuary)

- Two unisex restrooms, one with infant changing table
- Nursery
- Church office and minister's office
- Jesse Coon Conference Room

The **Jefferson Education** wing

(To your right, off the patio, when you leave the sanctuary)

- Children's classrooms
- Children's restroom



We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 10:30 am. You are so very welcome!

Beginning on January 15th, 2017 we will be worshipping at the Texas A&M Hillel -
800 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840.