



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs

Rev. Joseph Cleveland, Minister

Creating a community of love for justice and peace

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs is a Welcoming Community that embraces people of any age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, ability, language, or cultural background.

Winter Solstice: The Presence and Presents of the Dark

10 A.M. December 22, 2024

CHIMES

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“The Coming of the Dawn” (D. Tamulevich)
*Rejoice! Rejoice! The old year passes on
We celebrate the coming of the dawn*

LIGHTING THE CHALICE

Solstice Carole (Kim Baryluk) Choir

*OPENING HYMN

“Blackbird” (Paul McCartney)

*Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to arise*

*Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these sunken eyes and learn to see
All your life
You were only waiting for this moment to be free*

*Blackbird, fly. Blackbird, fly
Into the light of the dark black night (repeat)
(repeat first verse)*

*OUR COVENANT

*Love is the doctrine of this faith,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony
with the Divine—
Thus do we covenant with one another and love
beyond belief.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Hymn No. 1058

*Be ours a religion which like sunshine goes
everywhere,
its temple all space, its shrine the good heart,
its creed all truth, its ritual works of love.*

STORY “The Shortest Day” by Susan Cooper

Rev. Joe, music and narration

CHILDREN’S RECESSIONAL

Words & Music by Thomas Benjamin

*For we shall go out in joy (2x)
And come back in peace (2x)
Blessed be.*

READING “Power Out!” by Hayley Broadway

SONG Better Days (emma’s revolution)
in the light / in the dark / we begin

SERMON

A TIME FOR GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY

Music: “The Longest Night” (Peter Mayer)

Rev. Joe, voice and guitar

When you text (518-333-9140), use the QR code or go online (bit.ly/give2uusaratoga) to donate, please be sure to select the appropriate fund for your donation.



Any donation made to the Give Away the Plate fund during the month of December is **Shelters of Saratoga**

PRAYER words of Lyn Cox

SHARING OF JOYS & SORROWS

Stones & water ritual

“In My Quiet Sorrow” (Jeannie Gagné)

Laura Kalb, soloist

(To share a Joy or Sorrow, please email the Care Team at careteam@uusaratoga.org)

Prayers of the People

Response: *There is a love holding you.*

Closing Response:

Leader: May we all know that we are not alone as we hold one another in our hearts.

All: *There is a love holding us.*

There is a love holding you.

There is a love holding all.

We rest in this love.

CHOIR ANTHEM “Solstice Song” words and music by Alouette Iselin, arr. Peter Amidon

CLOSING WORDS

words of Rev. Kathleen McTigue

*CLOSING HYMN

“Where Is the Light?” (Peter Mayer)

Where is the light? Where is the light?

Where is the light? Oh... The light's inside of me

*BENEDICTION

*EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

words of Elizabeth Selle Jones

*We extinguish this flame,
but not the light of truth,
The warmth of community,
or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts
until we are together again.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Service Participants

Rev. Joe Cleveland, Minister

Jamie Gargano, Director of Religious Exploration

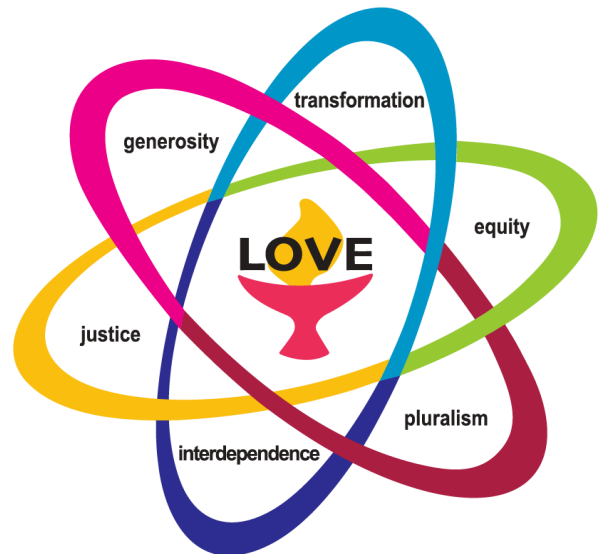
Carol Ann Elze, Choir Director

Margie Shepherd and Laurie Singer, Worship Team

Doretta Miller, Care Team

Ron Giancola, Board Member

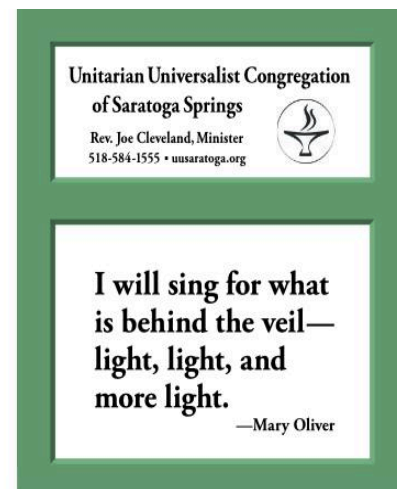
UU Shared Values



graphic by Tanya Webster (chalicedays.org)

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today, especially those who are visiting for the first time. Please join us in the back of the sanctuary for refreshments and conversation following the service.

We hope this community can be a place of meaning, inspiration, celebration and joy for you and your family.



*Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit

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