

***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*

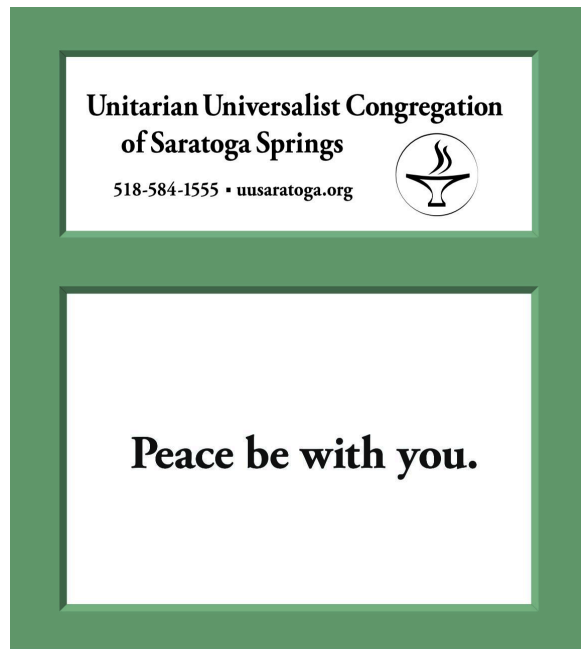
ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Service Participants:

Melissa O'Brien, Guest Speaker
Wayne Cochran, Worship Associate
Tari Lee Muth, Care Team
Doretta Miller, Board Announcer
Carol Ann Elze, Choir Director
Jolene Crowley, flutist
Laura Kalb, soloist

A special thank you to our Tech Team and Hospitality Team



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs

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. We extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today, especially those who are visiting for the first time. Following the service, please join us for refreshment and conversation. We hope this community can be a place of meaning, inspiration, celebration and joy for you and your family.



The Longest Night

Sunday, December 21, 2025

CHIMES AND WELCOME

PRELUDE “Solstice Carole” By Kim Baryluk

LIGHTING THE CHALICE The words of Wayne Cochran and
Rev. Christopher Buice

All: *Where we see indifference, may we bring Justice.
Where we see selfishness, may we bring Equity.
Where we see stagnation, may we bring Transformation.
Where we see homogeneity, may we bring Pluralism.
Where we see isolation, may we bring Interdependence.
Where we see greed, may we bring Generosity.*

***OPENING HYMN** No. 118, This Little Light of Mine

***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**

*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.*

HYMN No. 188, Come Come Whoever You Are

STORY FOR ALL AGES

“The Shortest Day” by Carson Ellis, based on the poem by
Susan Cooper

***HYMN** No. 237 The First Nowell

CHILDREN’S RECESSIONAL

Words & Music by Thomas Benjamin

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

SERMON The Longest Night

ANTHEM “The Wexford Carole” - ancient Irish carol arr. for soloist,
flute and piano.

A TIME FOR GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

Offertory Music: “The Snow Lay on the Ground” Tune: VENITE
ADOREMUS arr. Larry Shackley

MEDITATION “Meditation for Winter Celebrations,”
the words of Elizabeth Strong

SHARING OF JOYS AND SORROWS

Stones and Water Ritual Hymn No. 225, O Come O Come Emmanuel

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

All:

*There is a love holding me.
There is a love holding you.
There is a love holding all.
We rest in this love*

***CLOSING HYMN** No. 233, Bring A Torch

***BENEDICTION** ”Shine!” The words of Mary Edes