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**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS...**

**Preaching** Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, Minister

**Musicians** Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble, Austin Ferguson, Joe Mish, and Rose Mish  
Nursery care is available during the services (6 months-4 years)

**TONIGHT'S OFFERTORY RECIPIENT...**

The Crisis Nursery of Greater Rochester – the only program of its kind in the Greater Rochester region – delivers free, temporary childcare during family emergencies, including (but not limited to): medical emergencies, unexpected illness, accidents, unemployment, mental health episodes, unexpected death, domestic violence, homelessness, legal issues, unstable/unsafe housing. **Give as the plate passes or use the QR code to go directly to our giving page on our website:**



**HAPPENING THIS WEEK...**

**December 25 - January 2 – Church Office is Closed for the Holidays**

**Sunday, January 1, one service ONLY at 10 am**

***Ritual for Change and Growth***

An annual ritual of celebrating the threshold of the new year with gratitude, openness, and possibility.  
We will gather around a special chalice flame to offer our words of letting go and moving forward.

***The Stable by Peter Mayer***

(1) In Bethlehem a manger waits  
Long ago and so today  
Where hatred-weary people pray  
Love will come and lay there

(2) And so do countless stables stand  
In hearts as harsh as desert lands  
Rough shelters in the wind and sand  
That love may come and stay there

(3) Love that opens fists of hate  
Heaps up gold on beggars' plates  
Love that shows a kindly face  
To enemies and strangers

(4) And the walls of stables tremble so  
When the winds of fear and judgment blow  
For a stable hopes in love alone  
And knows that love's the answer

(5) O Love, the prophet's only word  
The only lesson left to learn  
The only end of heaven's work  
And the only road that goes there

(6) Love that sees with mercy's eyes  
Holds its arms out open wide  
Threads its loom with separate lives  
And weaves them all together

(7) So may the lamps of stables glow  
Brightly that their light may go  
For miles in the darkness, so  
Love will find its way there

**First Unitarian Universalist Church**

*Our Mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth & practices justice.*

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Visit us on Facebook: First Unitarian Universalist Church-Rochester, MN



**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

***Threads of Love***

**December 24, 2022 • Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4:00 & 6:00 pm**

**December Theme: Wonder**

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## *Threads of Love*

Gathering Music Austin Ferguson, Joe Mish, Rose Mish

Introit *The Friendly Beasts*, from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Carol, *Orientis Partibus*

**Solo Voice:** Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,  
and the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

**All Voices:** Love is the place where God begins, when every stranger's welcomed in;  
Heaven on earth begins within; each soul, the place, where love begins.

Welcome Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

Music *Deck the Hall* Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble

Chalice Lighting *For Maia* by Gary Johnson  
The Ribikawskis Family (4 pm)  
The Goode/Rider Family (6 pm)

\*Hymn *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

(1) Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, (2) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Oh come, ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Come, and behold him, born the king of angels; Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
Oh come let us adore him (x3), Christ the Lord! Oh come let us adore him (x3), Christ the Lord!

(3) God dwells among us; earth is joined with heaven,  
Stars light the way to make a welcome for all!  
Love greets the stranger; borders fall in wonder;  
Oh come let us adore him (x3), Christ the Lord!

Reading *Glory Sings Here* by Rebecca Parker  
Jennifer Dens Higano & Alex Higano (4pm)  
Emily Morgan (6 pm)

Music *Angels We Have Heard on High* Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble

Readings *The Birth of Jesus* from the Gospel of Luke Bonita Underbakke (4 pm)  
Sandy & John MacLaughlin (6 pm)  
*Wise Women Also Came* by Jan Richardson Jodi Morgan (4 pm)  
Laura Lukes (6 pm)

\*Hymn *Love Has Come*

Love has come, a light in the darkness, love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies!  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; see how their song of joy arises!  
Love! Love! Love is the song they're singing; Love! Love! Love is the gift they bring!  
Love has come, and calls forth compassion; love is life filled with justice and peace!  
Love is hearts that are opened in wonder; love is the song my heart is singing!  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Peace and Goodwill on Earth!

Homily *Threads of Love* Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer

Offertory Music *Stables* by Peter Mayer Walden Hill Vocal Ensemble  
Lyrics on back page

Reading *Moment of Magic* by Victoria Safford Amy & Arlen Carey (4 pm)  
Angie Gupta (6 pm)

Prayer

*As we light our candles, please tilt your **unlit** candle toward the candle that is already lit.*

Hymn *Night of Silence* by Daniel Kantor  
*Silent Night* by Franz Xaver Gruber

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, Child of God loves pure light.  
Radiant beams from thy holy face;  
with the dawn of redeeming grace;  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Benediction *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

Postlude *Pastoral*, from *The Christmas Concerto* by Giuseppe Valentini  
\* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.