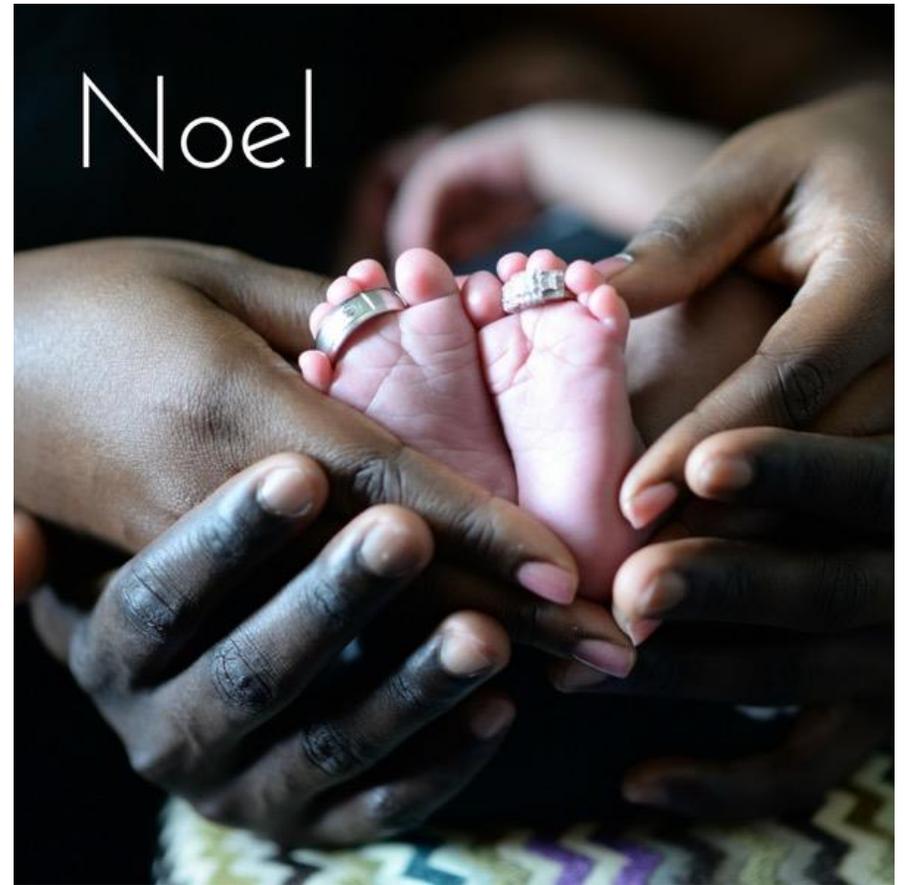


At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices
To celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

~ Maya Angelou, from *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem*



Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2016

Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek
A Welcoming Congregation
302-369-2712
www.uusmc.org

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek
Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister
~ Order of Service ~
December 24, 2016

Gathering Music

Prelude **Hymne de fraternises/Joyeux Noel** Philippe Rombi

Ringing of the Chime

Hymn **O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lighting of the Chalice

Hymn **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Reading **You Have to Know Your Body
as the Home of God** Rebecca Parker

Hymn **O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading **Luke 2:1-20**

Hymn **The First Noel

Prayer

Offering **Noel: Christmas Eve 1913** R. Bridges/L. Holdridge

Reading **Amazing Peace** Maya Angelou

Hymn **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Homily

Lighting of Candles

Hymn **Silent Night, Holy Night

Benediction

Postlude

*Please thoroughly extinguish all candles as we exit the sanctuary
in silence.*

**Please stand as you are able.

Music this Christmas Eve is provided by Pam Allenstein.

Christmas Eve Offering – this special offering is for Family Promise of Northern New Castle County, DE.

*“I have never felt so loved.”
“I never knew people could care.”
“I felt more accepted here than ever before.”*

Family Promise is a coalition of volunteers, faith communities, and donors working to prevent and end homelessness. Working in New Castle County, Family Promise helps families access affordable housing, in many cases bypassing the homeless shelter system. Family Promise works to mentor families, teaches financial literacy, helps to find jobs, and advocates for public policies to promote the economic stability of low-income families. Over 80% of the families who work with Family Promise secure housing in sixty days. 90% of those families remain housed one year post-transition.

During their transition from unstable or unsustainable housing conditions, families are hosted by a network of churches in our area. Mill Creek partners with those churches to provide assistance in their hosting responsibilities. If you are interested in learning more about Family Promise, we encourage you to read their website: familypromisede.org.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet, the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

In despair, I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth, I said.
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep.
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men.

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

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

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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 men,
From heaven's gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world hath suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Shall come the Age of Gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!