

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**  
**December 24, 2019**  
**Rev. Gregory S. Pelley**

A Welcoming Congregation  
302-369-2712  
[www.uusmc.org](http://www.uusmc.org)

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek  
Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister  
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director  
~ Order of Service ~  
December 24, 2019

Ringing of the Chime

Prelude ;Cantar! Althouse

Lighting of the Chalice

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #225

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

Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem #246

Reading Luke 2: 1-20

Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High #231

Prayer

Offering Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Reading Each Night a Child is Born Sofia Lyon Fahs

Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful #253

Homily Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Lighting of Candles

Hymn Silent Night, Holy Night #251

Benediction The Work of Christmas Howard Thurman

**Music this Christmas Eve** is provided by the Mill Creek Choir under the direction of Kristen Tosh-Morelli, with Savannah Klumpp, pianist.

**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 mentors 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 visit their website: [familypromisede.org](http://familypromisede.org).

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

## 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, O Come, 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 Love to dwell.

O come, you 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 Truth to dwell.

O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your presence here.  
And dawn in every broken soul  
as vision that can see the whole.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.

O come, you Wisdom from on high,  
from depths that hide within a sigh,  
to temper knowledge with our care,  
to render every act a prayer.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.

## 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.

O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born to us today;  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

## Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

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.

See him in a manger laid  
Whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## 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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O 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.

