

THOUGHTS FOR GATHERING

from The Dream of the Earth by Thomas Berry,

We cannot discover ourselves without first discovering the universe, the earth, and the imperatives of our own being. Each of these has a creative power and a vision far beyond any rational thought or cultural creation of which we are capable. Nor should we think of these as isolated from our own individual being or from the human community. We have no existence except within the earth & the universe.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Beginning To See the Light by The Velvet Underground

* CHALICE LIGHTING AND COVENANT

Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law.
This is our great covenant – to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

* HYMN #235

Deck the Halls

INVOCATION (responsive)

We Come Together This Morning, Rev. Kathleen McTigue

We come together this morning to remind one another
to rest for a moment on the forming edge of our lives,
*where we may resist the headlong tumble into the next moment,
claim for ourselves awareness and gratitude,
take time to look into one another's faces and see there communion.*
This is a house of laughter and silence, memory and hope.
It is hallowed by our presence together.

ANTHEM

We Are Lights, by Stephen Schwartz

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Believing in Hanukkah, Solstice, and Christmas

SINGING THE CHILDREN FORTH:

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the spirit of love surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

SHARING JOYS AND SORROWS

MEDITATION

For So the Children Come, by Sophia Lyon Fahs

READING

The Spirit of Christmas Past from Dickens' A Christmas Carol

*HYMN #225

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

READING

from Annie Dillard's Holy the Firm
and The Gospel of Matthew ch. 5

SERMON

*WINTER REVELATIONS #3:
WILL NEW LIGHT BRING NEW LIFE?*

OFFERTORY

Moonlight Sonata, by Ludwig van Beethoven

*HYMN (see insert)

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

*CARRYING FORTH THE LIGHT

*CLOSING

POSTLUDE

Shine by Collective Soul

* Asterisks indicate an opportunity to stand.

Minister: Rev. Jack Donovan

Music Director: Nic Filzen

Hospitality: Kevin Wamboldt

Greeters:

Worship Associate: Alisun Donovan

Pianist: Teresa Ancaya

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We Wish You a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a happy new year.

Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year.

Oh, bring us a figgy pudding
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding
And a cup of good cheer.

We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
So bring it right here

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a happy new year.