



December 18, 2022

“Refuge in the Dark”

Rev. Mary Gear

As we approach the Winter Solstice, we reflect on the gifts of darkness.

This service includes a meditation to embrace the dark.

*Please help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance online and in-person.
Kindly silence your cell phones. Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.*

Prelude

Troy Fisher (he/him)

Morning Hymn #221 Light One Candle

Troy Fisher

Words and music by Peter Yarrow

Welcome

Alicia Seegers Martinelli (she/her)

Lighting the Chalice

Alicia Seegers Martinelli &

Words by Ariel Hunt-Brondwin

Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her)

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

Rev. Mary Gear (she/her) &

words from Rev. Erika Hewitt

Alicia Seegers Martinelli

Opening Words

Rev. Mary Gear

adapted from “UU Hanukkah Blessings” by Lorenzo Bassman

Opening Hymn #226 “People, Look East”

Troy Fisher

Words Eleanor Farjeon /Music: Traditional French carol,
harmony by Martin Shaw

Reflection On “Refuge” with Tim Ransom

Introduced by Rev. Sara Lewis

Musical Interlude #1063 “Winter Solstice Chant”

Troy Fisher

Words & music: Phillip Palmer, arr. Jeannie Gagne

Share the Plate Offering

Alicia Seegers Martinelli

Offertory “The Chanukah Song (We Are Lights)”

Words: Steve Young / Music: Stephen Schwartz

Anja Swenson & Troy Fisher

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Mary Gear

Prayer

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Response #1034 “De Noche”

Troy Fisher

Words: Unknown / Music: Jacques Berthier

Reading: “In Celebration of the Winter Solstice”
by Stephanie Noble

Alicia Seegers Martinelli

Musical Interlude #1063 “Winter Solstice Chant”

Troy Fisher

Words & music: Phillip Palmer, arr. Jeannie Gagne

Reflection & Meditation: Refuge in the Dark

Rev. Mary Gear

Closing Hymn #55 “Dark of Winter”

Troy Fisher

Words & music: Shelley Jackson Denham

Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary Gear

From “In Celebration of the Winter Solstice”
by Stephanie Noble

Unison Benediction*Troy Fisher*

Words: Rev. Mary Gear / Music: Troy Arnold Fisher

May you know the Spirit in you.

May you know the Spirit in me.

With loving and healing, doing and being,

May you know the Spirit in All.

Postlude*Troy Fisher***Reflection questions:**

Can you imagine refuge in the dark?

Have you ever experienced it?

What might help you feel refuge in the darkness?

Saturday, December 24: “Room at the Inn” Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:30 pm online and in-person, and 9 pm in-person only.

Next Sunday, December 25: “Christmas Morning Celebration” with Rev. Mary Gear & Troy Fisher features lots of carol singing.

Share the Plate Offering: For the month of December, our Share the Plate recipient is the Olympia Books to Prisoners. Olympia Books to Prisoners works to offset the dehumanizing effects of incarceration by sending quality used books free of charge to prisoners all over the United States. They aim to foster a love of reading behind bars and encourage the autonomous, self-directed pursuit of knowledge on the part of those they serve.

If you write a check, be sure to make a notation indicating "pledge" if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program. Checks can be mailed to OUUC at 2315 Division St NW Olympia WA 98502. Donate online at <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>

Donate by text. Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

Feast of Carols Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 18, 7pm | OUUC Sanctuary

Join in the spirit of the holiday with "A Feast of Carols." The OUUC Choir, directed by Troy Arnold Fisher, presents an afternoon of Christmas music - featuring Randol Alan Bass's "Christmas Ornaments" and "A Feast of Carols", along with a holiday sing-along. If you missed yesterday's concert, join us this evening at at 7pm. Admission is free, donations will be gratefully accepted. Join us for refreshments after the concert.

Give to the Capital Campaign Today!

The Capital Campaign less than \$100,000 away from our goal of \$544,000. What's amazing is that less than half of our members have committed to Fund Our Future, yet we're well over halfway to our congregational goal. If you haven't had a chance to make your commitment, help us get there by donating to the campaign today at <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/-/form/pledge/2022-2025capital> or scan the QR code below:



Our goal averages to a commitment of around \$1,000 per member (\$2,000 per couple) over the course of 3 years. To clarify, this is not an expectation that all members can or will be able to commit \$1,000 – that's just the average. Because of a huge boost from George Lanning, the rest of our congregation only needs to contribute a total of \$293,000. As of Friday, we just need **\$94,244** to FINISH THIS CAMPAIGN! If you have questions, you can visit our the OUUC website or ask any of the Capital Campaign Committee members: Frank Winters, Elizabeth Rodrick, James Trujillo, or chair Barry Zickuhr.

Winter Solstice Spiral Meditation

Thursday December 22nd, 7pm | OUUC

Join us on for a winter solstice spiral walk and blessing. We will mark the darkest days of the year with music, walking meditation, candles, and blessings. Weather permitting we will be outdoors, moving inside for rain, so dress warm.

Community Dinner for All!

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Join us on Thursday December 8 for the Community Dinner at 5:30. We need folks to help with dinners! If you can help, email Rev. Sara.