



Our spiritual practice for December is **Choosing Hope**.

*“Hope just means another world might be possible, not promised.”*

~Rebecca Solnit

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**Sunday, December 7th, 2025**

**“Choosing Hope”**

with Rev. Mary Gear

We explore the spiritual theme for this month, Choosing Hope. In this dark time of year, we mark Advent, Hanukkah and Christmas, holidays of light and hope. Is hope a choice and how can we choose it when things seem hopeless?

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At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well.

Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance, onsite and online.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

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**Prelude**

*Troy Fisher (he/him)*

**Morning Song**

*Congregation/ Choir*

**“Love, Come Take Me Home”**

Words: Jan Elicker / Music: Clif Hardin

**Welcome**

*Curt Hill (he/him)*

**Chalice Lighting**

*Curt Hill*

**“Our Beacon of Hope”**

Words of Rev. Joseph M. Cherry

**Lighting the Second Advent Candle: Peace**

*Rev. Sara Lewis*

Ritual by Rev. Rosemary Morrison

*(she/her)*

**Opening Words**

“We Are Waiting”

by Rev. Leslie Takahashi

*Rev. Mary Gear*

*(she/her)*

**Opening Hymn**

“Green”

Words: Peter Mayer / Music: Traditional French carol,  
harmony by Martin Shaw

*Congregation*

**New Member Welcome**

*Rev. Mary & Rev. Sara,  
Sally Alhadeff (she/her)  
& Susan Moon (she/her)*

**Musical Interlude**

*Troy Fisher*

**Share the Plate Offering**

*Curt Hill*

**Offertory**

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

From “Tuvayhun” (Beatitudes for a Wounded World)

Words: Charles Anthony Slivestri / Music: Kim Andre  
Arnesen

*OUUC Choir &*

*Oboe-Elliot Anderson*

**Ritual of Sharing from the Heart**

*Rev. Mary Gear*

**Prayerful Practice**

*Rev. Mary Gear*

**Musical Response**

“I Hope”

From “Tuvayhun” (Beatitudes for a Wounded World)

Words: Charles Anthony Slivestri / Music: Kim Andre  
Arnesen

*OUUC Choir &*

*Oboe-Elliot Anderson*

**Reading**

*“Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in with Unexpected  
Resilience and Creative Power”*

by Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone

*Curt Hill*

**Sermon Part One: Choosing Hope**

*Rev. Mary Gear*

<b>Musical Interlude</b>	<i>Oboe-Elliot Anderson</i>
<b>Reading</b> “ <i>Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities</i> ” By Rebecca Solnit	<i>Curt Hill</i>
<b>Sermon Part Two: Practicing Hope</b>	<i>Rev. Mary Gear</i>
<b>Closing Hymn</b> <b>Hymn #1060 “As We Sing of Hope and Joy”</b> Words & music: Elizabeth Alexander	<i>Congregation</i>
<b>Closing Words &amp; Extinguishing the Chalice</b> “Choosing Hope” by Rev. Michelle Collins	<i>Rev. Mary Gear</i>
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Troy Fisher</i>

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**Reflection Questions:**

1. What do you think hope means?
  2. Is there something that gives you hope now?
  3. Where do you feel hope, or the absence of it, in your body?
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**Today’s After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite and online):**

**What Makes a Healthy Congregation?**

What do you think makes a church congregation healthy? Join members of the OUUC Board and Healthy Congregations Team to talk about what we can do to ensure that OUUC remains a healthy congregation. All ideas welcome, come with your curiosity and have a great discussion with us.

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**Next Sunday, Dec 14th, 2025, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):**

**“Advent, Again” with Rev. Monica Jacobson Tennesen**

Each year we have an opportunity to explore the lessons of the liturgical season of Advent from the Christian calendar, a season that resonates with the experience of being human in these times whether or not we hold this theology. Come explore what practices of hope and expectancy offer us in these times.

**After-Service Forum on December 14 th, at 12:15 pm (onsite & online):**

Skill Builder with Rev. Sara: Microaggressions 101

**Share the Plate Offering:** Our Share the Plate organization for November and December is Rebuilding Together Thurston County (RTTC):

RTTC provides free, critical home repairs and improves accessibility for low-income homeowners, typically seniors, persons with disabilities, military veterans, or families with young children. Volunteers preserve existing affordable housing and help people to remain living in their homes.

If you write a check, please note "PLEDGE" if it is a pledge payment. All other donations in the basket will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to: 2306 East End 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. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel

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**OUUC was participating in food collection for immigrant families living in our community.** Thank you all for your generous contributions of food in our recent food drive. The organizers have been overwhelmed with donations and we are **pausing the collection** of food for now. Thank you for your generosity.

**We are collecting gift cards for families at our neighborhood elementary school, LP Brown.** We want cards in amounts of \$25, which can be brought to Rev Sara. **We are also collecting new toys and books for the Joy and Justice Toy Drive,** which can be brought to a collection box in the Commons anytime OUUC is open.

**Guest At Your Table,** our annual fundraiser drive for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Collect a donation envelope in the Commons or use this donation link to make a donation: <https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595>

**Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:**  
<https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>