



River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Love-stream Worship!

December 24, 2021 – 5:30 pm

Christmas Eve "The Messiah Is Among Us"

“Christmas is a sturdy holiday,” writes the Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons. “Christmas doesn’t wimp out when times are hard – it comes anyway ... shining the light of a midnight star into the darkest places of our collective lives.”

While we are deeply disappointed that this latest COVID-19 surge has cancelled the in-person portions planned for our Christmas Eve service, we, too, are sturdy, and keep finding ways to not only keep connected, but deepen our bonds through this time of great uncertainty and change. We’ve moved the entire Christmas Eve service back to virtual, at our regular Worship Zoom link below. But fear not – as you may know our choir was planning to sing for us with our treasured Gayle Giese returning as guest conductor; they, too, are adapting to this change, and we will indeed be blessed by their music on Christmas Eve!

Oh, and please bring a candle and matches to your screen for this service so we may once again bring light and be light together in all the ways we can. Yes, this is hard. Yes, this hurts. And still – we are the River and whatever happens, we flow on – together. For there are messiahs among us.

We so hope you will gather with us once more in Zoom and on Facebook live at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve for our now all-virtual service - "A Messiah Is Among Us" - complete with new choir pieces and our Youth Pageant filmed in the park just for you!

Following the service we will stay and enjoy one another’s company Virtual Hospitality, greeting one another right there in our Zoom screen. If you attend the service via Facebook Live, please join us for Hospitality at the same link as the service below (this information also at riverofgrassuu.org).

Topic: Worship December 24, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

We’ll be watching for you!

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Christmas Eve "Messiahs Among Us"

River of Grass – December 24, 2021 – Order of Service

Ringing of the Chimes

Prelude – “Celtic Carol Medley” (traditional, arr. Gayle & Allen Giese) Gayle Giese, piano & flute; Allen Giese, violin

Welcome

Gathering Reading – “Welcome All Ye” (Webb)

Prelude – “Oh Come All Ye Faithful” (traditional) River of Grass Virtual Choir; Brenda Parker, piano

Chalice Lighting –

For a world so much in shadow

We kindle this flame

For life born anew

On the earth

And in our hearts

For this is the Season of Light (Webb)

Covenant

Love is the spirit of this congregation 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.

El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación, y el servicio su ley principal.

Esta es nuestra gran promesa:

vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor, y ayudarnos mutuamente.

Music – “The First Noel” (traditional) Renato Demoraes, flutes

Music – “Greensleeves/What Child is This” (trad., arr. Liz Story) Gayle Giese, piano

Reading – The Christmas Gospels (New Testament) Deb & Rob Giblin-Davis, Leana Bresnahan

Reading – “It Doesn't Seem Like Much” – Rev. Theresa Ninán Soto

Message – “Messiahs Among Us – Pt 1” Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Youth Pageant – “The Messiah Is Among You”

Message – “Messiahs Among Us – Pt 2” Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Music – “Alegria, Alegria, Alegria” (Traditional, Puerto Rico) Linda Lathroum, Marpessa Demoraes, Jorge Rodriguez

Offering – “Christmastime Is Here” (Guaraldi & Mendelson) Aaron Stang, guitar

Give digitally and via text: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/donations.html>

Music – “Oh Christmas Tree” (Ernst Anschütz, based on a 16th-century Silesian folk song by Melchior Franck)

River of Grass virtual choir, arranged and orchestrated by Adam & Matt Podd

Reading – “Amazing Peace” (Maya Angelou) Vernon Allen

Invitation to candle-lighting – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Reading – “And So We Light Our Candles”

Lighting of the Candles – “Silent Night” (traditional) River of Grass Virtual Choir; Brenda Parker, piano

Blessing

Chalice Extinguishing

Sending

Gratitude reel

Pageant Outtakes

Sending/Invite to hospitality