



**River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**December 24, 2023 – 5:30 pm**

## **Christmas Eve "And Still, Joy"**

**Topic: Worship December 24, 2023**

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 "And Still, Joy"

## River of Grass – December 24, 2023 – Order of Service

**Prelude** – “Christmastime is Here“ Performed by: Gary Gonzalez; Aaron Stang; Ethan Neuburg

**Gathering Carol #253** – “O, Come All Ye Faithful” Words & Music: John Francis Wade

**Gathering Words** – “Welcome All Ye” (Webb)

**Chalice Lighting** –

*To a world so much in darkness*

*We kindle this flame*

*For life born anew*

*On the earth*

*And in our hearts*

*That peace may come*

*The whole world round.*

*In this Season of Light,*

*Let us choose something like a star. (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 #327** – “Joy Thou Goddess” Words: Friedrich Schiller; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven; Performed by: River of Grass Choir

**Reading** – “How the Light Comes” Written by: Jan L. Richardson; Read by: Karen Gonzalez

**Music** – “The First Noel” Words & Music: traditional English carol

**Reading** – “The Gospel According to Matthew” Read by: Leana Bresnahan

**Music** – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Words: Latin c. 9th century; Music: *Veni Emmanuel*

**Reading** – “Gospels, part 2” Read by: Marilisa Lawless

**Music** – “Bach: Ave Maria Gounod” Music: Johann Sebastian Bach and Charles Gounod; Performed by: Linda Lathroum and Aaron Stang

**Homily** – “And still, Joy” Rev. Amy Carol Webb

**Music** – “Carol of the Bells” Words: Peter Eilhoucky; Music: Mykola Leontovych; Performed by: River of Grass Choir

**Offering** – “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” Words & Music: Traditional; Performed by: Gary Gonzalez; Aaron Stang; Ethan Neuburg; Rev. Amy Carol Webb – Benefiting NAMI Broward (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

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

**Reading** – “Amazing Peace” Written by: Maya Angelou; Read by: Vernon Allen

**Invitation to candle-lighting** – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

**Reading** – “And So We Light Our Candles”

**Lighting of the Candles** – “Silent Night” Words: Joseph Mohr; Music: Franz Xaver Gruber

**Blessing**

**Chalice Replese**

**Reprise** – “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” Words & Music: Traditional; Performed by: Gary Gonzalez; Aaron Stang; Ethan Neuburg