



Deepest gratitude to every volunteer that made this Christmas Eve Celebration possible.
Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with Health, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace with Justice!

Cover images artist unknown, inside image by Anthony VanArsdale.
Graphic design and liturgical curation by Rev. Alex da Silva Souto.

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Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists

“Imagine Ceasefire”



Christmas Eve Celebration

December 24, 2023

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we invite you into this community of searchers and seekers. It is our purpose to nurture the individual spiritual path of each person, and build a common faith based on our shared core values which include recognizing the inherent worth of all people and the quest for peace with justice and equality in our community and the world.

The order of service is subject to change at the leading of the Spirit.
T-Coil Listening Assistance Devices are available at the entry of the Sanctuary.
Six liturgical elements were crafted by Rev. Molly Bolton, and freely offered by *enfleshed*.

GATHERING WORDS by Rev. Molly Bolton Rev. Alex

WELCOME Vicky Jungers

CALL TO WORSHIP Pam Downs
[text by Rev. Molly Bolton inspired by the Manger scene at
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Occupied Palestine.]

OPENING PRAYER & CHALICE LIGHTING Rev Alex

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" STLT #244 [v.v. 1, 2] Patricia Leftridge

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE by Rev. Molly Bolton Vicky Jungers

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear " STLT #244 [v.v. 3, 4] Patricia Leftridge

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE Amelia Zuver

MUSICAL OFFERING "Christmas Is" by Dolly Parton Vicky Jungers

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY Pam Downs + Donna McMahon
A Contemporary Interpretation of Mary's Magnificat from Luke 1:47-55
transliterated by Rev. M Jade Kaiser @enfleshed

MUSICAL OFFERING "Mary, Did You Know" Vicky Jungers + Patricia Leftridge
Lyrics by Jennifer Henry (inspired by the popular song of the same name)

SACRED TEXT Luke 2:1-18 Amelia Zuver + Rev. Alex
[The Message, adapted with inclusionary language]

CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High" [v. 1, 2] Patricia Leftridge

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE Pam Downs
Mercedes McWilliams & John Bohland

INVITATION TO OFFERING Pam Downs + Vicky Jungers

PRAYER OF DEDICATION by Rev. Molly Bolton Rev. Alex

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" [v.v. 1, 2] Patricia Leftridge
[adapted by Trelawney]

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Gospel of John 1:1-5 Rev. Alex
[adapted by Rev. Alex after Eugene Peterson]

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" [v.v. 3, 4] Patricia Leftridge
[adapted by Trelawney]

COMMISSION & BLESSING by Rev. Anna Blaedel & Rev. Molly Bolton
Rev. Kai Greer + Rev. Alex

***RECESSIONAL** "Imagine" by John Lennon & Yoko Ono
John Armstrong + Vicky Jungers

[those willing and able are invited to gather in a circle for the lighting of the candles]

***CLOSING CAROL** *Stille Nacht* "Silent Night" Gruber & Mohr

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

