

Pre-Christmas Service 1992

Rev. David E. Bumbaugh

The Unitarian Church in Summit NJ USA

December 20, 1992

ORDER OF SERVICE(Our Service BEGINS when the music begins. We request your silence during the prelude.)

PRELUDE

:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING WORDS:

(read in unison)

Let this day begin the time for celebration.
Let us turn ourselves toward the season of the year
when trees are bare
and the grass is covered with snow,
and the sun begins to return once more
to warm our homes and our bodies and our hearts.
Let this day begin the holy celebration of Christmas.
--author unknown

*** HYMN:**

From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise;
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue

*** COVENANT:**

(in unison)

Love is the doctrine of this church
The quest of truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve life in fellowship,
To the end that all souls may grow in harmony,
Thus do we covenant with each and with all.

***HYMN:**

(tune: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen)

**Once more to minds grown tired and dim,
Once more to hearts grown cold,
There comes a time of light and warmth
Of hope to have and hold,
Of cares laid by and griefs forgot,
And promises foretold.
Oh, kindle these candles in your heart,
In your heart,
Oh, kindle these candles in your heart.
--Rev. Janet Bowering**

OFFERTORY

:

A CELEBRATION OF RETURNING LIGHT:

READING

HYMN

: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

**This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.**

**Building up a world,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Building up a world,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Building up a world,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine Let it shine, Let it shine.**

READING:

HYMN: DECK THE HALLS

**Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**Don we now our gray apparel,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**While I tell of Yuletide's treasure,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

**Sing we joyous, all together,
Fa la la la la , la la la.**

Heedless of the wind and weather,

READING:

HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD

**Joy to the world! the sun returns
Let Earth rejoice and sing;
Let every voice proclaim the news
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the darkness fades
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,**

**Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Joy to the world! the light is come,
Let earth with rapture ring:
Let every heart now cast out gloom
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

READING:

HYMN: SILENT NIGHT

**Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon gentle mother and child.
Tiny infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Child of hope, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy shining face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Child of light, at thy birth,
Child of light at thy birth.**

READING:

DECORATING THE MITTEN TREE

STORY: WHY THE CHIMES RANG

HYMN

: WE BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS

**O we believe in Christmas,
And we keep Christmas day;
And we will honor Christmas
The ancient, world-wide way;
The Christmas of all peoples,
The sun's returning cheer
Rung out from tower and steeple
At midnight of the year.**

**And we will join at Christmas
The song of hope and joy
Which finds its theme at Christmas
In every girl and boy.
The flames of life will dwindle
As fades the sunset sky
Until a child shall kindle
New light and raise it high.**

**Then sing we all at Christmas
The song of that new birth
Which holds the hope of Christmas
And brings its joy to earth;
Which knits the generations,
All living 'neath the sun,
Above all tribes and nations
And makes the many one.**

**Shine out, ye lights of Christmas,
From hearth and tree and star!
And let the warmth of Christmas
Shed kindness near and far!
And clang, ye bells of Christmas
Upon the frosty air!
And may the joy of Christmas
Spread gladness everywhere.**

*** CLOSING WORDS**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

(tune: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen)

**Once more to minds grown tired and dim,
Once more to hearts grown cold,
There comes a time of light and warmth
Of hope to have and hold,
Of cares laid by and griefs forgot,
And promises foretold.
Oh, kindle these candles in your heart,
In your heart,
Oh, kindle these candles in your heart.**

POSTLUDE:

(Our service ends when the music ends. We invite you to be seated for the postlude.)

Congregation standing