

**ORDER OF SERVICE  
December 18, 2016**

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Connie Rockman, Worship Associate

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

INTROIT "Northern Lights"

Chamber Choir

Ola Gjeilo

CHALICE LIGHTING

OPENING WORDS

\*OPENING HYMN #221 "Light One Candle"

STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

*Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law.  
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

STORY "The Trees of the Dancing Goats" by Patricia Polacco

told by Mary Collins

EXIT SONG

(K-3 children exit to programming in lower level)

*Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love  
of God surround you, everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

RESPONSIVE READING #440

CANDLE LIGHTING A time to share a brief personal joy or sorrow.

A Pastoral Care Chaplain will be present at the candle boat after the service

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. John Morehouse

MUSIC "We Are"

Ysaye Barnwell

SERMON "A Beacon of Hope"

Lara Fuchs, Intern Minister

OFFERING "In Dulci Jubilo"

arr. Pearsall

AFFIRMATION OF GRATITUDE

Let us be grateful when we are able to give,  
For many do not have that privilege.

Let us be grateful for all those who share their gifts,  
For we are enriched by their giving.  
And let us be grateful even for our needs,  
So that we may learn from the generosity of others.

CLOSING HYMN "The First Nowell" (see insert)

CLOSING WORDS

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE

POSTLUDE "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"

J. Gardiner

\*Latecomers will be seated at this time.

Parents with young children are invited to use our nursery or sit in the foyer where you can hear the service and your children can be children.  
There are listening assistive headphones on the back wall of Sanctuary.

**THIS WEEK AT CHURCH**

Today, December 18

Career Transitions Support Group, Youth Room at 8:30 am  
Holiday Appeal Donation Station in foyer after services  
Facing the Future Support Group, Youth Room at 12:30 pm  
Youth Group, Youth Room at 6:00 pm

Monday, December 19

Bell Choir, Sanctuary at 6:45 pm  
Grief Support Group, Rev. John's Office at 7:00 pm  
O&AF Rehearsal at 7:45 pm

Tuesday, December 20

Board of Trustees, East Wing at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21

Soundings Mailing, Fellowship Room at 1:00 pm  
Solstice Service, Sanctuary at 6:45 pm  
Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal at 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 22

Pageant Rehearsal at 5:00 pm

Friday, December 23

Shawl Ministry, Meeting House at 12:30 pm  
Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal at 8:00 pm

Saturday, December 24

Pageant Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary at 2:00 pm  
Christmas Pageant Service at 4:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Service with Bells & Choir at 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 25

Worship Service at 11:00 am ONLY

**WELCOME!** We're glad you're here this morning. If this is one of your first visits with us, please stop to talk with our greeters. They can be identified by the yellow ribbons on their nametags and they are happy to answer any questions you have about our church. Please join us after the service for our Fellowship Coffee Hour for refreshment and conversation. More information about this church and our programs can be found at our website [www.uuwestport.org](http://www.uuwestport.org).

## OPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

**New: Facing the Future Support Group**, hosted by the Pastoral Care Committee, on Sunday Dec. 18 at 12:30 pm in the Youth Group Room, downstairs in the Meeting House. It is open to everyone. Please join us! The next meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 12:30 at the same location.

**Winter Solstice and Yule Service** Wednesday December 21, at 6:45pm in the sanctuary. Come join us for a time reflection, to celebrate the longest night of the year, bring back the light and look forward to the spring. Led by Lara Fuchs, Intern Minister and William McEvoy.

**A holiday gift** supports our Unitarian Universalist work to heal the world and is now more important than ever. Please consider making a generous Holiday gift in addition to your pledge. You can stop at the donation station in the foyer after both services.

**Help us decorate the sanctuary for the holiday!** For information about contributing toward our traditional wreaths and poinsettias please contact [Jan@uuwestport.org](mailto:Jan@uuwestport.org) or sign up in the flower book in the foyer.

### Services on December 24:

Christmas Pageant at 4:00 pm (doors open at 3:30)

Christmas Eve Service with bells & choir at 9:00 pm (doors open 8:40)

### Christmas Morning Service: December 25, 11:00 (only one service)

Intern Minister Lara Fuchs and Rev. Ed Thompson will use story and song to bring us together in community on this meaningful morning.

Children are invited to stay with the adults (no classes or childcare).

Please bring a holiday snack to share in fellowship after the service.

**Women's March-Washington D.C.-Jan. 21, 2017** - We are going!! Go to <https://www.letskedaddle.com/events/6339#> and use access code c73206ba469. The cost will be \$100 or less. We depart from the Church parking lot at 1:30 AM on Jan.21st and return that night. Please sign up now. On January 1st we will open remaining seats to the larger community. If you have signed up you will have received a confirmation email. No confirmation email? Check at sign up table to make sure you have a seat!



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** *The Unitarian Church in Westport is a diverse and welcoming religious community, free of creed and dogma, and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs. We **inspire** and support individual spiritual growth. We **connect** through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries. We **act** in the service of peace and justice.*

WREATHS & POINSETTIAS

*Donated by the Shawl Ministry*

# The Unitarian Church in Westport

10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880, 227-7205 [www.uuwestport.org](http://www.uuwestport.org)

Ushers 9:00: S. Kadison, M. Constable, R. Balmer

Ushers 11:00: K. Leddy, R. Sankar, M. Allen, L. O'Donnell

Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson, Minister of Music

Rev. Frank A. Hall, Minister Emeritus

Lara Fuchs, Intern Minister

Mary Collins, Lifespan Faith Development; Cal Wacker, Youth Programs  
David Vita, Director Social Justice and Membership