

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION
Judy Eckert, Worship Associate

PRELUDE

CHALICE LIGHTING & OPENING WORDS Worship Associate

**OPENING HYMN #16 "Simple Gifts"

COVENANT

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING A time to share a brief personal joy or
sorrow. A Pastoral Care Associate will be present at the candle
boat after the service.

MEDITATION Rev. Shelly Thompson

HOMILY "Letting the Mystery Heal Us" Rev. Dr. John Morehouse

OFFERING "The Question" Andy Gundell
Andy Gundell, soloist

CLOSING SONG

*Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the
stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; Wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

BENEDICTION

Flowers

In loving memory of my mother, Elsa Pfluger,
who would have been 100 on December 5th.
Anita Pfluger

**Latecomers will be seated at this time.

Parents with babies/young toddlers please use our foyer to enjoy the
service.

Listening assistive headphones are on the back wall of the Sanctuary.

WELCOME! We're glad you're here this morning. If this is one
of your first visits with us, please stop by the visitors' table (below
the WELCOME sign) for information and answers to questions
you may have about this UU community. And join us after the
service for refreshments and conversation. More information
about our programs and our Event Calendar can be found at our
website www.uuwestport.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Welcome Rev. Shelly TODAY: Please stay after the service to welcome our new Assistant Minister for Faith Formation, Rev. Shelly Thompson.

Holiday Appeal: Please consider making an end-of-year contribution to our congregation, and visit the Year Round Stewards in the lobby after the service. Look for Rev. John's letter explaining this giving opportunity.

The Board & COM present the Strategic Plan: Please join members of the Board and the Committee on Ministry in the foyer after the service to learn about the new Strategic Plan and about preparation for a proposed Capital Campaign.

Holiday Boutique TODAY: Come find those special gifts and a few treasures for yourself. There are lots of wonderful NEW ITEMS this week!

Pageant! There is still room for participants. To register please sign up via the church website (www.uuwestport.org), or contact Ed Thompson (ed@uuwestport.org or call 203/227-7205 ext. 18). Rehearsals begin on Thursday, Dec. 13 (ages 6-13). Questions/concerns to Ed Thompson.

Holiday Party & Sing-A-Long is a multi-gen event offering fun, food and fellowship for all. Come! Saturday, Dec. 15th. 6pm Potluck (including activities for the children) followed by caroling at 7pm. We would appreciate your signing up so we can prepare accordingly. Sign up on line (see the link in this week's Soundings), or sign up in the foyer, or RSVP to Ed Thompson (ed@uuwestport.org or call 203/227-7205 ext. 18). Don't miss the festivities!

TUCWomen's Quotable Women Brown Bag Lunch: Sunday, Dec. 16th at 12:30 in the Meeting House, guided by Shanonda Nelson. Come and share good conversation with the women of our community.

Leadership Development Team (LDT) presents *Harvest the Power*: Join Rev. John for this engaging series designed to enrich the skills of both new and experienced leaders. 12 sessions every Sunday from 12:30-2pm to start in January. Contact ldt@uuwestport.org with questions or to apply.

KIVA CARDS on sale today after the service.

Year-Round Stewardship Committee needs your help: If you are looking for an opportunity to contribute to our congregation, if you want to meet new people in our community, if you understand that the financial health of our church is important, you can be a "Visiting Steward"! Please contact us at stewardship@uuwestport.org. Mark your calendars for a fun and interactive training session on Saturday, March 2nd.

9:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE



The Unitarian Church in Westport

10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880, 203/227-7205 www.uuwestport.org

Ushers: D. Kahn; M. Levin

Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson, Minister of Music

Rev. Frank A. Hall, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Shelly Thompson, Assistant Minister for Faith Formation

Margalie Belizaire, Intern Minister

Saundra Clements, Acting Children's Program Coordinator

Zulaikha Hasan, Acting Youth Program Coordinator

David Vita, Director of Social Justice and Director of Membership

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.*