
UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk. Saturday, Dec 21, 3:00 PM, Sanctuary. Labyrinths have been used for millennia for inner peace, contemplation, meditation, and prayer to facilitate insight and healing.

Sunday Service: Return of the Light – Solstice Celebration Service. Sunday, Dec 22, 10:00 AM, Sanctuary. Rev. Alan will reflect on two different meanings of presence which are critical to learning how to take refuge in one's spirituality, both of which the Solstice Season encourages us to pay attention to.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Tuesday, Dec 24, 9:00 PM, Sanctuary. Join Rev. Alan and Rev. Ed for a festive celebration and reflection of the season. Several carols and readings will be included in this annual Christmas Eve gathering.

Gratitude and Song, our last service with Rev. Ed. Sunday, Dec 29, 10:00 AM, Sanctuary. Mark your calendar for a very special service of Gratitude and Song as this will be Rev. Ed's last service. We will send him off to retirement with readings, reflections and songs, followed by a reception.

See Soundings for more info on events above. Check your email for the latest *Soundings*. Email Ruth to be added to our list.

Thanks for your generosity. Use these QR codes to donate easily using the camera on a smart phone.



Virtual Offering Plate



venmo

Holiday Blues: Hope Through the Winter Solstice

**Ravi Sankar
and Pastoral Care Chaplains
December 20, 2024**

7:00 pm



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Westport
10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport, CT 06880, 203-227-7205
www.uuwestport.org

Rev. Alan Taylor, Senior Minister x12
Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson, Minister of Music x18
Angi Haen, Director of Family Faith Formation x15
Rev. Frank A. Hall, Minister Emeritus
Rev. Jim Francek, Community Minister, Pastoral Care x19
Beth Cliff, Board of Trustees President

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation 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.*

GATHERING MUSIC/PRELUDE

Rev. Ed Thompson

WELCOME

Ravi Sankar

REFLECTION / TESTIMONIAL

Shari Brennan

HYMN "O Come, O Come Healing Light" verses 1 and 2
(sung to the tune of "O Come, O Come Emanuel")

1. O come, O come, thou healing light,
That brings us through the longest night,
And helps us know our path, clear and bright,
That we may ever dwell in light.
Rise up, rise up, let hope now fill our soul
And see the light that makes us whole.
2. O come, O come thou Source of Life
That carries us beyond our strife
And loosen expectations of pride
That in your presence we abide.
Rise up, rise up, let hope now fill our soul
And see the light that makes us whole.

READING

"Letting Go"

Beverly Bailey

I release what no longer serves me, I release it into the
darkness of this winter solstice. I create space for ease and
welcome freedom from suffering.

MEDITATION

Beverly Bailey

HYMN "O Come, O Come Healing Light" verses 3 and 4
(sung to the tune of "O Come, O Come Emanuel")

3. O come now Spirit, bring new ways,
New insights that will brighten our days,
And bring a peace that's balm for the soul
That is our way and is our goal;
Rise up, rise up, let hope now fill our soul
And see the light that makes us whole.

4. O come, Creator of each birth
And bring to us new feelings of worth
That with each breath we sense the Divine
And with the Light we may align.
Rise up, rise up, let hope now fill our soul
And see the light that makes us whole.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Ravi Sankar

REFLECTION / GRATITUDE

Rev. Jim Francek

CLOSING HYMN "Solstice Silence"

(sung to the tune of "Silent Night")

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright
Round these greens and round these lights,
Here we sing in dark of night;
Peace to all who meet here, peace to all who meet here.
2. Silent night, holy night, as the earth turns in space
Rich the darkness and rich the grace
Giving strength to the whole human race,
Moving t'ward the light, moving t'ward the light.
3. Silent night, darkness round, as we touch the holy ground,
See our borderless planet turn,
One, as family, we live and learn,
Peace we breathe this night, peace we breathe this night.

*Please join us in the lobby for further connection.

**Thanks to our very own Ed Thompson,
for playing the piano.