



Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

December 14, 2025

Gathering Music

Peter Boak

A Selection of Holiday Music

Ring of the Bell

Eric Brooks

Introit *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*

UUSMV Singers

Welcome and Chalice Lighting

Rev. Rob Hardies
Alex Knight, Chalice Lighter

Carol *People, Look East*

All

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course and flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Lesson Genesis 1:1-5

Susanna Savoy

Anthem *The Longing*, Bonnie Lynn Arbaugh

UUSMV Singers
Jan Hyer, cello

Lesson *Winter Blessing*, Rebecca Parker

Chris Ferrone

Chant *Within Our Darkest Night*

All

Within our darkest night, You kindle the fire that never dies away.

Lesson *The Shortest Day*, Susan Cooper

Judy Crawford

Carol *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* All

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will, from heaven the news we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

But with the woes of war and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we who fight the wars hear not the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise of battle strife, and hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold:
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Lesson *At the Manger, Luke 2:1-7* Ethan Knight

Anthem *Candle of Peace*, by Victor Johnson UUSMV Singers

Lesson *Shepherds and Angels, Luke 2:8-19* Tenley Brooks

Carol *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. X2

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavn'ly song? [Refrain]

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise. [Refrain]

Lesson *The Magi, Matthew 2:1-12* Mimi Davisson

Carol *What Child is This?*

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant, king to own him
The King of Kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

Homily *The Light Brigade*

Rev. Rob Hardies

Sharing Our Gifts

Rita Brown

This evening's offering is for the Minister's Caring Fund,
which assists people in times of great need throughout the year.

Offertory *Night Blooming Jasmine*

UUSMV Singers

In the darkness we walk with light (x2)
Like a night-blooming jasmine, we light up the night
In the darkness we walk with light

Sharing our Light

Rev. Rob Hardies, all

Carol *Silent Night All*

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 Al-le-lu-ia!

Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, oh, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Moment of Silence

Benediction

Rev. Rob Hardies

Carol *Joy to the World!*

Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

Please join us for a festive reception after the service.

Our sincere appreciation to the Parish Committee, who graciously served as Greeters.

Special thanks to our Choir—Bill Bridwell, Betsy Buck, Pam Butterick, Judy Crawford, Mimi Davisson, Kanta Lipsky, Mariah Macgregor, Peter Meleney, Peter Palches, Jenifer Parkinson, Ruth Richards, Sarah Richards, and Sue Streeter—and to Peter Boak for directing the Choir and playing both piano and organ.

Reverend Rob and the Worship Committee would like to offer words of gratitude to all who helped make this evening's service one of beauty and wonder – particularly the readers and the choir, with deep appreciation for Peter's music.

And finally, to all the members and friends who see and find community within this beloved congregation: may your days be full of joy, your nights full of warmth, your hearts be full of hope, and the year ahead be overflowing with wonder. Much love to you all.