

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist Billerica

Christmas in the Trenches

Prelude:

Welcome & Opening Words: On this Night

Chalice Lighting: Starhawk on Community

***Opening Carol:** #225 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prayer: A Christmas Prayer by Maureen Killoran

Musical Response: In the Bleak Midwinter

Carol: #253 Oh Come All Ye Faithful (First 2 verses)

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Carol: #245 Joy to The World (First 2 verses)

Responsive Xmas Meditation: Christine C. Robinson

Offertory Words: Encouraging Generosity in others

Offertory Carol: #235 Deck the Halls (First 2 verses)



Reading: In the Holy Hour of Christmas Eve, Richard Gilbert

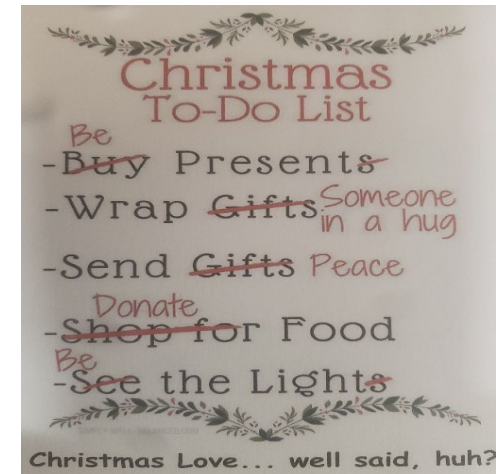
Carol: #259 We Three Kings of Orient Are (First 2 verses)

Sermon: Christmas in the Trenches Rev. Steve

Hymn: Silent Night (Candlelight)

Benediction and Chalice Extinguishing: Barbara Pescan

Please join us in the Parish Hall for fellowship of cookies, coffee and conversation immediately following the service.



"The true spirit of Christmas is people being helped by people other than me." Jerry Seinfeld

Responsive X-mas Meditation: Christine C. Robinson

Leader: Let us join our hearts and minds together in the spirit of meditation and prayer. May these moments of quiet lead us to the heart of the season, which is peace. May we breathe deeply of peace in this quiet place, relax into its warmth, know we are safe here, and let us open our hearts to the story.

Minister: Like the wandering couple,

Congregation: may we find our greatest trials issue forth from our greatest joys.

Minister: Like the harried innkeeper,

Congregation: may we find ways to be of help to others.

Minister: Like the lumbering beasts,

Congregation: may we be silent witnesses to the unfathomable glory of life.

Minister: Like the shepherds on the hill,

Congregation: may we know that we need never be afraid.

Minister: Like the journeying wise,

Congregation: may we always have the courage to follow our stars.

Minister: Like the angels,

Congregation: may we cry peace to a troubled world.

Leader: To these prayers for our own transformation we add our prayers for all of those who suffer and grieve this evening. May they find comfort. And we add our prayers for all those involved in war; may they be safe. And may this season of peace and goodwill nudge our world towards its ideals, for then will Christmas truly dawn. **Amen.**

The First Parish Church ***The Unitarian Universalist Church***

On the Common, Billerica Massachusetts



Christmas In the Trenches

Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve 10pm