

**“Night and Light”  
Order of Worship  
Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria  
Reverend Jennifer Innis  
December 20, 2020**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn**      “For the Beauty of the Earth”      by Folloitt Sanford Pierpont

**Opening Words**

**Chalice Lighting**

**Sacred Story**      *The Rebirth of the Sun*      Starhawk

**Joys and Sorrows**

**Meditation**      “A Blessing for the Dark”      by Reverend Laurel Gray

**Musical Interlude**      “Turning Toward the Light”      by Carrie Bastian & Mike Lemieux

**Sermon**      *Night and Light*      Reverend Jennifer Innis

**Closing Hymn**      “Dark of Winter”      by Shelley Jackson Denham

**Sending Our Light into the World**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Many thanks to our voices: Amanda Franklin and family and Patrick Price. Thank you to Rosa Chang for the music. Thank you to Austin Locke for technical support.

Our hymns come from several Unitarian Universalist sources. Thank you to Community Church Unitarian Universalist of New York for their production of “For the Beauty of the Earth”. We have the gift of new music from staff and volunteers at Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boise, Idaho. “Turning Toward the Light” was written by Carrie Bastian and Mike Lemieux. Robert Franklin created the video. Reverend Christopher Watkins Lamb shares his musical and technical skill with a new version of “Dark of Winter” by Shelley Jackson Denham.

## Lyrics

“For the Beauty of the Earth”  
Words by Folloitt Sandford Pierpont  
Music by Conrad Kocher

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the splendor of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:  
Source of all, to thee we raise this,  
our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind’s delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight:  
Source of all, to thee we raise this,  
our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light:  
Source of all, to thee we raise this,  
our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human care,  
sister, brother, parent, child,  
for the kinship we all share,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Source of all, to thee we raise this,  
our hymn of grateful praise.

“Turning Toward the Light  
(Be Still and Know)”  
Carrie Bastian &  
Mike Lemieux

In this darkest hour, be still.  
In this darkest, be still and know.  
Be still and know the calling of your heart;  
know a new dream soon will start.

(Turning Toward the Light, cont.)

In this darkest hour be still,  
and feel the Earth dance around our star,  
and each star spiraling in space.  
Feel the still point at the center of it all,  
As we spin with tranquil grace.

And the Solstice candles gently glow and  
spark  
on this longest night;  
we wait in stillness in the dark,  
yet we’re turning, turning toward the light.

On this longest night, be still.  
On this longest night, be still and know,  
be still and know the journey may be long:  
know that we will carry on.

On this longest night be still  
and feel the Earth dance around our star,  
and each star spiraling in space.  
Feel the still point at the center of it all,  
as we spin with tranquil grace.

And the Solstice candles gently glow and  
spark  
on this longest night;  
we wait in stillness in the dark,  
yet we’re turning, turning toward the light.

Under the gleam of a Winter moon,  
we gather to sing a holy tune,  
to join in the dance, the dance of the  
spheres,  
as we circle from year to year.

In this mystery, be still.  
In this mystery, be still and know  
be still and know, know the peace that  
dwells inside;  
know that joy and love abide.

(Turning Toward the Light, cont.)

In this mystery, be still  
and feel the earth dance around our star,  
and the star spiraling in space.  
Feel the still point at the center of it all,  
as we spin with gentle grace.

And the Solstice candles gently glow and  
spark  
on this longest night  
we wait in stillness in the dark,  
yet we're turning,  
turning toward the light

“Dark of Winter”  
Words and music by  
Shelley Jackson Denham

Dark of winter, soft and still,  
your quiet calm surrounds me.  
Let my thoughts go where they will;  
ease my mind profoundly.  
And then my soul will sing a song,  
a blessed song of love eternal.  
Gentle darkness, soft and still,  
bring your quiet to me.

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes,  
that I may see more clearly.  
When my heart with sorrow cries,  
comfort and caress me.  
And then my soul may hear a voice,  
a still, small voice of love eternal.  
Darkness, when my fears arise,  
let your peace flow through me.