

**We welcome everyone. Our Unitarian Universalist community seeks truth and deeper meaning, pursues justice through inspired action, and cultivates compassion and love for all connected by the web of life. *Mission statement, adopted May 18, 2014***

### **Programs for Children and Youth**

**Today, 12/24** Merry Christmas Eve! There are busy bags, pipe cleaners, and some stuffed animals on the front table by the door for anyone who might enjoy using these materials during service. Please return stuffed animals to the table on your way out.

**On 12/28** Programs for Children and Youth are on holiday and age-based activities (including childcare) are on pause. Young ones are invited to attend service with their grownups. Thank you for your patience as we give our wonderful volunteers and staff this well-deserved break.

**On 1/4** please join us for **Family Chapel**, offered in the **Sanctuary** at **9:30AM**. Family Chapel is a short, full service designed for our youngest folks that is usually led by the Director of Programs for Children and Youth and the Director of Music Ministry on the first Sunday of the month from October-May. When Family Chapel is over, the children and middle-school aged youth go to their age-based small groups, which begin at 10AM on Family Chapel Sundays. These groups will use the extra time to enjoy a snack together. High school Youth Group will go to the 10AM service in Community Hall in support of the youth presenter in the annual This I Believe service.

If you are interested in helping out, or you would like to ask about our programs, please email the Director of Programs for Children & Youth at [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org).

**Worship Theme for December: Light**

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#### **Albany Unitarian Universalist**

Rev. Ann Kadlecek, Interim Minister

Elizabeth Baldes, Director of Programs for Children and Youth

Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry

Sophia Garder, Administrator

Nicholee Froese, Congregational Life Coordinator

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*Image by Davidsonluna*

## **Christmas Eve**

**Rev. Ann Kadlecek**

**Elizabeth Baldes,**

**Dir. of Prog. for Children & Youth**

**Albany Unitarian Universalist**

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

**5:15 PM & 7:00 PM**

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

**Gathering Music** Olga Martinez, Director of Music Ministry  
& Chris Milkins, Musician

**Prelude** *Amid the Cold of Winter* Albany UU Choir  
arr. by Bret Rhoades; directed by Chris Jensen

**Call to Celebration** Rev. Ann Kadlecek

### Community Greeting

**Carol** *O, Come, All Ye Faithful* by John Francis Wade, translated  
by Frederic Oakeley

**Chalice Lighting** Rev. Ann Kadlecek & Elizabeth Baldes,  
Dir. of Prog. for Children & Youth

We light this chalice  
that the hearth fire of our hearts may be rekindled,  
that our stories may be retold, and  
that we may celebrate life anew.

- Denise D. Tracy (adapted)

**First Ancient Story** Luke 2: 8-20 Elizabeth Baldes

**Carol** *Angels, We Have Heard on High*,  
Traditional French Carol, translated by James Chadwick

**Second Ancient Story** Luke 1: 46-55

**The Message in Modern Poetry** Rev. Ann Kadlecek  
*Magnificat* by Lynn Unger

**Carol** *Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella*  
Traditional French Carol

### Ministers Reflection

Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Anthem** *Until Love is Spoken*  
by Karen Marroli

Albany UU Choir

### Offering

Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Offertory** *Silver Bells* Chris Milkins & Randy Rosette  
by J. Livingston & Ray Evans

### Candle Ritual

Rev. Ann Kadlecek

**Carol** *Silent Night*, words by Franz Xaver Gruber,  
music by Joseph Mohr

### Benediction

### Chalice and Candle Extinguishing

**Closing Hymn** *Joy to the World*, by Isaac Watts

## Merry Christmas!

Thanks to our musicians Chris Milkins, Chris Whittaker, Chris  
Jensen, Randy Rosette, and Alison Jansen.

*Hanging of the Greens by the Flowers Committee.*

**Albany Unitarian Universalist  
Christmas Eve 2025 Carols**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

**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.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella**

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella,  
bring a torch and quickly run.  
Christ is born, good folk of the village,  
Christ is born and Mary's calling,  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother,  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her child.

Come and see within the stable,  
come and see the Holy one,  
come and see the lovely Jesus,  
brown his brow, his cheeks are rosy.  
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he slumbers,  
Hush! Hush! Quietly now he sleeps.

### **Silent Night (2x)**

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.

### **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,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, 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,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, and wonders of his love.

### **Tonight's Offering**

On Christmas Eve, it is our custom to donate the money received during the service to support people in need. This year, the collection will be divided between IPH and the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

IPH (formerly known as Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless) serves unhoused and at-risk individuals and families. Its programs benefit more than 2,000 individuals and families each year, primarily in the city of Albany. Learn more about IPH at <https://www.iphny.org>.

The other half of the collection will be added to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. All of the money in this fund is used to discreetly provide financial assistance to people in need. Most goes to support congregants; some may also be used to help people in the wider community.

During the Offertory, cash or checks may be placed in the basket that will come around. You can also contribute during the coming week, or donate by text online – if you do, please indicate that your donation should be added to the Christmas Eve collection.

**Thank you for your generosity!**