



Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

Cosmic Advent Service

December 24, 2011

Celebrants

Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *UUCS Minister*

Dr. Bill Miller, *Guest Singer*

Deborah Jacquemin, *UUCS Music Director*

Gennie Gregg, *Pianist*

Why Not A Star?

*...Why not a star? Some bright star
shines somewhere in the heavens
each time a child is born.*

Who knows what it may foretell?

*Who knows what uncommon life
may yet again unfold,
if we but give it a chance?*

Margaret Gooding, *Unitarian Universalist*
From UUA Hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition*

DARKNESS & SILENCE

Opening Words

First Homily

Lighting of First Advent Candle

Responsive Readings:

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was formless and darkness covered the face of the deep.*

— Genesis 1:1

O night! O guide!

O night more loving than the dawn!

O night that joined Lover with beloved,
Beloved in the lover transformed!

— St. John of the Cross

Yet mystery and manifestations arise from the same source.

This source is called darkness. Darkness within darkness.

The gateway to all understanding.

— Tao te Ching

Cast off limiting thoughts and return to true emptiness.

Stand in the midst of the void.

This is the secret of the Way of a Warrior.

— Morihei Ueshiba

*One method, one path into spiritual depth,
is to let go of our images, even our most cherished ones,
including all video images and audio images,
and to be sinking into silence.*

— Matthew Fox

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,
because on it God rested from all the work
that had been done in creation.

— Genesis 2:3



Silent Moment

Hymn #251 *"Silent Night"*

BIRTH & LIGHT

Responsive Prayer #520

Solo *"Mattie's Song"*

Second Homily

Lighting of Second Advent Candle

Reading — *"The Universal Mother"*

Hymn #225 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

CELEBRATION & GRATITUDE

Prayer (*The Lord's Prayer adapted*)

Responsive Reading #532

Third Homily

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Naming of Joys

Reading — *Rumi*

Hymn #245 *"Joy to the World"*



WISDOM & LOVE

Prayer in Unison

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

— St. Francis

Fourth Homily

Lighting of Fourth Advent Candle

Reading — *Proverbs 8:22-31*

Hymn #259 *"We Three Kings of Orient Are"*

TRANSFORMATION & WHOLENESS

Prayer (*"Pinch of Peace" by Mattie Stepanek*)

Final Homily

Lighting of the Cosmic Candle

Reading in Unison

When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mount Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties.

— Oscar Romero

Hymn #231 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Closing Words

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good Night!