

## WELCOME TO MISSION PEAK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



### It's Dark Out There

Worship Leader: Rev. Greg Ward  
Worship Associate: Sharon Davis

Worship Host: David Gibbons  
Music: Jay and Jessica Steele

**Sunday, December 11, 2022 10:00 AM**  
**Service theme for the month: Advent**

We are very glad that you are with us today and hope you feel our welcome. If you would like to learn more about us and receive our weekly email newsletter, please send an email to [welcome@mpuuc.org](mailto:welcome@mpuuc.org). We request your name, email, phone number and address. We'd be happy to answer any questions.

#### ***Our Mission Statement:***

*The foundation of Mission Peak is love. We are a spiritual community of open minds, nurturing growth and healing in ourselves and all people. Together we strive to live compassionately and courageously as we work for a nonviolent, just and sustainable world.*

#### **We, the Member Congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Covenant to Affirm and Promote:**

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of the conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

# Order of Service

Sunday, December 11, 2022 10-11:15 a.m.

## Centering Thought

“Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift.”

— Mary Oliver

“Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darknesses of other people.”

— Carl Jung

“You will fear the darkness only to the extent that you yourself are not providing light.”

— Marianne Williamson

“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

— St. Francis of Assisi

“The shadow is the greatest teacher for how to come to the light.”

— Ram Dass

## Prelude

**Bell** Rev. Greg Ward

**Call To Worship** Sharon Davis

**Unison Chalice Lighting** Rev. Greg Ward

Aspiration # 8

We aspire to build a community which values celebration and fun.

**Welcome** DeAnna Alm

**Welcome Song** The Sound of Silence  
Written by Paul Simon; Performed by Simon and Garfunkel Jessica and Jay Steele

**Time for all Ages** The Sound of Silence  
Adapted from *Hello Darkness, My Old Friend* by Sandy Greenberg Rev. Greg Ward

**Practice of Generosity (Offering)** Sharon Davis

## Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:

- Mail check to Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
P.O. Box 545 Fremont, CA 94537-0545  
(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)
- Drop envelope with check in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:  
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
We will be collecting this once per week.
- Pay online at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card (Note: 3% surcharge).

**Joys and Concerns Invitation** Rev. Greg Ward

**Song of Reflection** Sleep My Child  
Alicia Carpenter, words; Welsh melody Jessica and Jay Steele

**Shared Joys & Concerns** Rev. Greg Ward

<b>Reading</b>	The Darkness Divine	Rev. Greg Ward
<b>Anthem</b>	Paint it Black Mick Jagger and Keith Richards	Jessica Steele, vocals; Jay Steele, piano Stephen Longfiled, bass
<b>Message</b>	It's Dark Out There	Rev. Greg Ward
<b>Going Deeper</b>		
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	#101 Abide with Me Henry Francis Lyte, words; William Henry Monk, music	Jessica and Jay Steele
<b>Extinguishing the Chalice</b>	#456 We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.	Sharon Davis
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Greg Ward

**Next Week's Service: December 18 – "The Gift of Greatest Price"**

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Beth Schaefer. Worship Host will be Steve Wallcave. Peak Rocks will provide our music.

The midwinter holidays are filled with generosity and gift giving. Christmas, in particular, has made gift-giving so central, that it's sometimes hard to remember that it is not the true purpose of the holiday. The commercialization of Christmas and the juggernaut force with which advertisement campaigns have co-opted the season, almost require us to put things in perspective. In this service, we will explore what gifts we have received in our lives that teach us the most about ourselves, our lives and the season.

Go to <https://mpuuc.org/zoom/> for order of service and how to connect for all services

**Announcements:**

**Safety for those attending service in Cole Hall**

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. We encourage people to wear N95 mask (or equivalent) which are more effective than cloth or surgical masks. We have such masks available in Cole Hall on Sunday mornings. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if fully vaccinated and boosted. Because vaccinated people can still spread the disease to others, we strongly encourage those in contact with unvaccinated or immunocompromised people to attend services outside or via Zoom.

The [board Safety Policy on how we allow services in Cole Hall](#) is in the "[About->Congregational Documents](#)" section of the mpuuc.org web site. If you wonder how we are trying to keep us all safe as we gather together again, please read it. We expect to continue to monitor what is safe and make changes as needed.

We also have other board policies related to Covid-19 in section 18 of the board policies document, which is also in the "[About->Congregational Documents](#)" section of the website. The [outdoor event guidelines in section 18.2](#) will control

how we would be able to have food or drinks outside after the service, or for special events. Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about either safety policy.

**In search of mental health family support or peer support resources in the larger Tri-City area?** Contact Rev. Barbara Meyers, a mental health educator and peer support provider. There are some activities that are available during the pandemic. Email [com\\_minister@mpuuc.org](mailto:com_minister@mpuuc.org), or call 510-796-5722.