

## WELCOME TO MISSION PEAK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



### The Gift of Greatest Price

Worship Leader: Rev. Greg Ward  
Worship Associate: Beth Schaefer

Worship Host: Steve Wallcave  
Music: Peak Rocks

**Sunday, December 18, 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 18, 2022 10-11:15 a.m.

## Centering Thought

*Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present.*

*Bil Keane*

*There are souls in this world who have the gift of finding joy everywhere, and leaving it behind them when they go.*

*Frederick William Faber*

*The best gift you can give is a hug: one size fits all and no one ever minds if you return it.*

*Marge Piercy*

*We've got this gift of love, but love is like a precious plant. You can't just accept it and leave it in the cupboard or just think it's going to get on by itself. You've got to keep watering it. You've got to really look after it and nurture it.*

*John Lennon*

*It is possible to become discouraged about the injustice we see everywhere. But God did not promise us that the world would be humane and just. He gives us the gift of life and allows us to choose the way we will use our limited time on earth.*

*It is an awesome opportunity.*

*Cesar Chavez*

## Prelude

Bell

Rev. Greg Ward

Call To Worship

Beth Schaefer

Unison Chalice Lighting

Beth Schaefer

We light this chalice...To remind ourselves to treat all people kindly,  
because we are all one family;  
To take good care of the Earth, because it is our home;  
To live lives full of goodness and love,  
because that is how we will become the best people we can be.

Welcome

Colleen Arnold

Welcome Song

Do You Hear What I Hear?  
Noël Regney, words; Gloria Shayne, Music

Peak Rocks

Time for all Ages

MPUUC Christmas Pageant  
cast of thousands

Rev. Greg Ward

Practice of Generosity (Offering)

Beth Schaefer

**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).

<b>Joys and Concerns Invitation</b>		Rev. Greg Ward
<b>Song of Reflection</b>	Give Me Love George Harrison	Peak Rocks
<b>Shared Joys &amp; Concerns</b>		Rev. Greg Ward
<b>Prayer</b>		Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray
<b>Reading</b>	Christmas Eve Response to a Prayer Fr. <i>Giovanni Giocondo</i>	Rev. Greg Ward
<b>Anthem</b>	If I Had a Million Dollars Barenaked Ladies	Peak Rocks
<b>Message</b>	The Gift of Greatest Price	Rev. Greg Ward
<b>Going Deeper</b>		
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	Pretty Paper Willie Nelson	Peak Rocks
<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.	Beth Schaefer
<b>Benediction</b>		Rev. Greg Ward

**Next Week's Service: December 24, 2022 – "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service"**

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

In this traditional Christmas Eve Service, we will dive into the legends - and some of the confusion - around Christmas and the many holidays that have been woven into it. We will recognize the Grinchiness that the world sometimes displays and help make sense of how and why the season's most meaningful rituals emphasize gratitude, hope, good cheer, joy and peace among all people. We will sing carols and tell stories and - most of all - we will gather together - in person and on line - to unleash the goodness within us all. We may even have a visit from a sage seasonal ambassador of hope and love.

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.

**Welcoming newcomers:** The Publicity Committee is excited to announce that MPUUC’s first digital ads campaign is underway. Hopefully our blast of ads in the East Bay will bring newcomers to our website, then to a service.