WELCOME TO MISSION PEAK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Totally Scrooged Lessons and Carols

Worship Leader: Rev. Greg Ward
Worship Associate: Rev. Barbara Meyers

Worship Host: Steve Wallcave
Music: Peak Performers,
Directed by Shauna Pickett-Gordon

Sunday, December 24, 2024 5:00 PM
Service theme for the month: Gifts

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. 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 24, 2024 5-6:15 p.m.

Centering Thought

"Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, and sole mourner. And even Scrooge was not so dreadfully cut up by the sad event, but that he was an excellent man of business on the very day of the funeral, and solemnised it with an undoubted bargain." – *Charles Dickens*

"Bah, Humbug." "I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge. "Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry." – *Ebeneezer Scrooge*

'I wear the chain I forged in life,' replied the Ghost. 'I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you?'" – *Jacob Marley*

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach." – *Ebeneezer Scrooge*

"[A]nd it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!" – *Charles Dickens*

Prelude		Shauna Pickett-Gordon, Drew Wilson, Ariel and the Children
Gathering Carol	O Come, All Ye Faithful	Congregational Singing
Chalice Lighting	Dan Lambert	Rev. Barbara Meyers

We gather together on this Christmas Eve as fellow sojourners looking for light,
for hope, for peace, and for love.
We gather as people from many backgrounds, many faiths, many cultures, and
many spiritual paths.
But as we light this chalice, we gather as one body looking to the Nativity for its
message to all of humanity.
Its message is that there is light, there is hope, there is peace, there is love.

Welcome		Valerie Stewart
Lesson	Cratchit's Story	Rev. Greg Ward
Cratchit's Carol	240 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day	Congregational Singing
Lesson	Marley's Story	Rev. Greg Ward
Marley's Anthem	As We Sing of Hope and Joy Today	Peak Performers
Lesson	The First Ghost's Story	Rev. Greg Ward
The First Ghost's Carol	1059 May Your Life Be as a Song	Congregational Singing
Lesson	The Second Ghost's Story	Rev. Greg Ward

The Second Ghost's Carol	In the Bleak Midwinter	Congregational Singing
Offering	Ministerial Discretionary Fund	Rev. Barbara Meyers

Please donate generously if you are able, in one of these ways:
Mail check to MPUUC (Put Ministerial Discretion in the Memo line)
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
Pay online at https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/ with credit or debit card (Note: 3% surcharge).

Offering Carol	244 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"	Congregational Singing
Lesson	The Phantom's Story	Rev. Greg Ward
The Phantom's Anthem	Calling My Children Home	Peak Performers
Lesson	Ebeneezer Scrooge's Story	Rev. Greg Ward
Scrooge's Carol	251 Silent Night	Congregational Singing
Extinguishing the Chalice	Brian Kiely	Rev. Barbara Meyers

The Chalice is now extinguished, but its light lives on
in the minds and hearts and souls of each one of you.
Carry that flame with you as you leave this place and share it
With those you know
With those you love
and most especially, with those you have yet to meet.

Postlude	Ariel and the Children

Merry Christmas

Next Week's Service: December 29 – "The Embattled Farmers**"**
Don Ramie will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Drew Wilson. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Jay and Jessica Steele will provide our music.

The story of America's beginning is surrounded by powerful, colorful trappings. The Boston Tea Party that started it all with the jaunty audacity of a costume party. Paul Revere riding through the night with his sole voice crying out alarm in the darkness. The Liberty Bell rung so loud on July 4, 1776, that it cracked. Washington praying in the snow at Valley Forge, a prayer that was answered. Shopkeepers and farmers with the right to bear arms defeating the king of the strongest empire in the world. But sometimes facts are actually more glorious—and instructive—than cherished myth.

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

Announcements:

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. Email com_minister@mpuuc.org, or call 510-493-1796.