



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF MONTPELIER

December 20, 2020, 10AM Eastern
Unitarian Church of Montpelier
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

“Standing Still as the Sun”

In English, the word solstice comes from the Latin word solstitium, meaning "sun standing still." What gifts of stillness can we discover and embrace with the arrival of the longest night? This will be a service for all ages.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91253504912?pwd=NkVOVWVaOGtqbVJsOHZ0bTBTUnRaUT09>

Or Dial (929) 436-2866 and enter IMeeting ID: 912 5350 4912, Passcode: 37861.

The Online Zoom Sanctuary will open at 9:45AM for viewing announcements and sharing greetings in the chat.

Land Acknowledgement and Welcome Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

Prelude This Little Light of Mine, African American spiritual
Sung by Esme, Meredith Warner, Maizy and Rohini Prabhakar

Call to Worship and Calling Forth the Directions Verdis L. Robinson
Words by Melissa Moongoddess

Opening Song Good Morning, Earth, by Heidi Wilson
Kellie Walker Hart

Chorus: Good morning earth, Good morning Sky. Good morning Water flowing by.

1. Good morning rocks, good morning leafy greens. The squirming, swimming and the running animals, and all you reaching trees...(Chorus)
2. Good morning birds, flying overhead. On the winds of the four directions, and the mighty thunderheads... (Chorus)
3. Good morning sun, Good morning moon. Good morning distant star, we'll remember your stories soon... (Chorus)
4. Good morning you, Good morning me. The ones who came before, and the ones who are yet to be... (Chorus)
5. Good morning life, singing in our bones. We give thanks for another day, in this land that we call home...(Chorus) Good morning Earth!

Chalice Lighting and Unison Affirmation Jenny Drewitz, Thomas and Phil Stimac

Adapted from L. Griswold Williams

*Love is the doctrine of this church,
the quest for truth is its sacrament,
and service is its prayer.*

*To dwell together in peace,
to seek knowledge in freedom,
to serve human need,*

*To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the divine.
Thus do we covenant.*

Story for All Ages The Gifts of Darkness Liza Earle-Centers

Musical Interlude Into This Night
composed and performed by Patti Casey

Time of Meditation and Prayer

Spoken Joys and Concerns Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

Body Prayer Lyra Anne, Gwen Aya, Mary Chris DeBelina Doyle

Quiet Meditation

Sung Response Spirit of Life No. 123, Words and music by
Carolyn McDade, born 1935 Kellie Walker Hart

*Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

Homily and Ritual Standing Still as the Sun Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

Song Dark of Winter No. 55

Words & music by Shelly Jackson Denham, 1988

Vocal: Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

Accompaniment: Rev. Cathy Rion Starr

Audio & Video Production: Rev. Christe Lunsford

Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me. Let my thoughts go where they will; ease my mind profoundly. And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal. Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me.

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly. When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me. And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal. Darkness, when my fears arise, let your peace flow through me.

Invitation to Generosity Rev. Joan Javier-Duval

Community Pouch recipient is People's Health and Wellness Clinic.

UCM Online Giving: <https://ucmvt.breezechms.com/give/online>

Unison Mission Statement and Chalice Extinguishing

Liza Earle-Centers

*We welcome all
as we build a loving community,
to nurture each person's spiritual journey,
serve human need,
and protect the Earth, our home.*

Announcements Elaine Ball

Benediction and Releasing the Directions Verdis L. Robinson
Words by Melissa Moongoddess

Postlude Selection from Visions Fugitives, by Sergei Prokofiev
Eliza Thomas, piano

Stay on the Zoom meeting to join us for Coffee Hour
immediately following the service.