

# Decorah Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, December 31, 2023

The Lingonberry  
Decorah, Iowa 52101

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## Welcome and Announcements

**Today's service relates to UU Principle #3:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

### Chalice Lighting

Lois Van Leer

We light this chalice on the brink of a new year  
Letting go of what has been  
Open and hopeful for what may come  
Renewed, restored, ready  
To live Life fully anew  
May we move forward with intention.

Opening Song SLT #55 Dark of Winter

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Words

Reading "As the Year Winds Down" by Mark Stringer

Joys and Sorrows You may light a votive candle as you share any joys or concerns with the fellowship.

Silent Meditation / Response

## Your Joy Is My Joy

Ellen Rockne



Your joy is my joy, your sor-row my sor-row. To -  
geth - er we live our days. To - geth - er we love this place. In be -  
lov - ed com - mu-ni - ty, we are not a - lone.

Reading "Out of the Flames" by Sara Eileen LaWall

**Out of the flames of fear**

We rise with courage of our deepest convictions  
to stand for justice, inclusion and peace

**Out of the flames of scrutiny**

We rise to proclaim our faith  
With hope to heal a fractured and hurting world

**Out of the flames of doubt**

We rise to embrace the mystery, wonder and awe  
of all there is and all that is yet to be

**Out of the flames of hate**

We rise with the force of love  
Love that celebrates our shared humanity

**Out of the flames we rise**

Offering/Response

For all that is our life, we sing our thanks and praise; for all life is a gift that we are called to use to build the common good, and make our own days glad. (#128, first verse)

## Fire Communion Ceremony

Closing Song *Auld Lang Syne* - words on back

Extinguishing the Chalice

Lois Van Leer

Having let go,  
Set our intentions,  
Named our curiosity,  
Committed our energies,  
And given ourselves over to lives of balance, purpose and meaning,  
Let us begin again  
In love

**Thank you to:** Beth Wahlberg for service leading and for preparing this service, Karen Esterl on technology, coffee brigadiers, social media and website folks, board members, and everyone for being here.

## Announcements

**Share-the-Plate** – Our share recipient for Nov/Dec is "**Earth Centered co-learning with Shelley Buffalo**," a webinar designed for UUers and friends coming in 2024.

To donate to the recipient, simply designate so on your check or offering envelope. Loose cash in the offering plate goes to Decorah UU.

### **English version**

Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
And old lang syne?

(Chorus)

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

And surely you'll buy your pint cup!  
And surely I'll buy mine!  
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

We two have run about the slopes,  
And picked the daisies fine;  
But we've wandered many a weary foot,  
Since auld lang syne.

We two have paddled in the stream,  
From morning sun till dine;  
But seas between us broad have roared  
Since auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty friend!  
And give me a hand o' thine!  
And we'll take a right good-will draught,  
For auld lang syne.

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## Fire Communion



photo by Ellen Macdonald, member of Decorah UU