

Pre-service music

Selections from *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi 6:45 p.m.

Order of Service 7:00 p.m.

Processional: Bringing of the Light Kathy Harris, organ
Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella
Traditional Provencal carol

Welcome & Opening Words Rev. Dr. Larry Peers

Lighting of the Chalice & Advent Wreath Jan Shay and Rowan Family

***Carol** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* Kathy Harris, organ
Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears
Music: Richard Storrs Willis

Reading “In the Darkness of the Winter” Jan Shay
by Suzelle Lynch

Carol *Sing We Now of Christmas* First U Children’s Choir
Sarah Barlow, leader
Words: Traditional French Carol
Music: Medieval French Carol

Ancient Story Luke 2: 1-20 Jan Shay

***Carol** *In the Bleak Midwinter* Kathy Harris, organ
Words: Chirstina Rossetti
Music: Gustave Theodore Holst

Story “The Last Straw”, by Frederick H. Thury adapted
Catherine Williamson

***Carol** *Joy to the World* Kathy Harris, organ
Words: Isaac Watts
Music: G.F. Handel

Meditation adapted from Victoria Safford Rev. Dr. Larry Peers

Homily “Now Is the Moment” Rev. Dr. Larry Peers

Musical Meditation “*Gesù Bambino*” Barbara Jaffe, violin
By Pietro Yon Lotus Cheng, piano

Reading “For So the Children Come” Catherine Williamson
by Sophia Lyon Fahs

Special Offering YWCA Jan Shay and Becca Cotto,
Director of Racial and Social Justice, YWCA

Offertory Dedication Jan Shay

***Carol** *The First Nowell* Lotus Cheng, Piano
English traditional carol, arr David Wilcocks;

Candle Lighting Rev. Dr. Larry Peers
Catherine Williamson

***Carol** *Silent Night, Holy Night* Kathy Harris, organ
Words: Joseph Mohr;
Music: Franz Xaver Gruber

Extinguishing the Flames Rev. Dr. Larry Peers

Benediction “The Work of Christmas” Rev. Dr. Larry Peers
by Howard Thurman

** Please stand, as you are comfortable in body or in spirit.*

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2022 (Online Only)

“Mood of Christmas”

[/YouTube.com/c/firstuuwilmorg/featured](https://www.youtube.com/c/firstuuwilmorg/featured)

Please note that we will not meet in our building on Christmas Day. However, we will provide a link in our website to a pre-recorded service that you can view any time. This service will feature readings from Howard Thurman read by our members: Linda Sanders, Edris Harrell, James Moser, Jan Shay, Helen Foss and Rebecca Fisher. There will also be Christmas spirituals by singers from our congregation, and a brief reflection by Rev. Dr. Larry Peers. Thurman was considered one of the most prominent religious leaders in our country. He had a prophetic and mystical sensibility, was a mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. and he continues to inspire many. Link will be sent by email on Saturday, December 24 or check our YouTube channel.

Sunday, New Year’s Day, January 1, 2023

“Mood of Christmas”

10:30 a.m. (in the building and online)

Our New Year’s Day reflection will be an opportunity for us to appreciate the dance of our life and to sense our next steps in this New Year. We will consider this wisdom from dancer Gabrielle Roth’s: “There is a dance only you can do, that exists only in you, here and now, always changing, always true. Are you willing to listen with fascination? ... If you don't do your dance, who will?”

In addition to this short reflection, there will also be a simple ritual to prepare for our first steps into this new year.

Guest musicians Harvey Price and Linda Henderson will join us to celebrate the beginning of the New Year!

For More information about our worship services, our LifeStream Adult Education programs, our children’s programs and other activities go to: firstuuwilm.org

OUR MISSION:

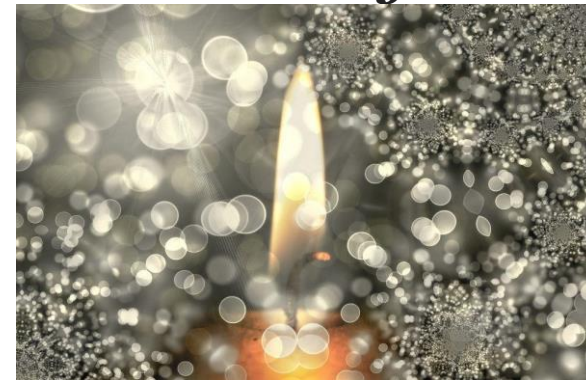
First Unitarian Church of Wilmington is a beloved community that nourishes minds and spirits, fights injustice, and transforms the world through loving action.

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington

A Welcoming Congregation ~ A Green Sanctuary

December 24, 2022

A Christmas Candlelight Celebration



Rev. Dr. Larry Peers, Minister

Jan Shay, Worship Associate

Catherine Williamson, Dir. of Children and Youth Religious Exploration

Kathy Harris, Music Director

Jon Claney, AV Tech Lead

First U Choir

First U Children’s Choir

Sarah Barlow, Children’s Choir Leader

Guests: Maria Bedo-Calhoun (mezzo-soprano)

Lotus Cheng (piano)

Website: www.firstuuwilm.org