

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough
December 1, 2024 10:30 a.m.

*Sunsets and Stillpoints:
Surrender as Our Spiritual Destiny*

Chimes

Organ Prelude *Arioso* by J. S. Bach

Welcome **John Mullen**

Call to Worship **Nicola Wilbar**

Hymn* *Come and Find the Quiet Center (See insert)*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle **Nicola Wilbar and John Mullen**

Lighting of the Chalice

Chalice Lighting Response

May We Shine a Light of Love (See back cover)

Unison Reading - Covenant Statement

John Mullen

Creating a caring community is the promise of our church. To listen deeply, show compassion, build trust, and honor our differences: these things we covenant together.

Message for All Ages

Mouse was Mad

Kelly Lownds

by Linda Urban

Children's Recessional (*Children leave at this time.*)

Children's Blessing (See back cover)

Meditation in Words

Nicola Wilbar

Meditation in Song Introduction

John Mullen

Meditation in Song

Even as Night

Nicola Wilbar and Ed Priest

by Mirabai Ceiba

Sermon

Nicola Wilbar

What is surrender and how do we get there?

Offertory

Touch a Rainbow

by Dennis Alexander

The Cash in the Plate this morning will be donated to the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN), with whom the Boston-based UU Justice Action team has been working. BIJAN "is a community network of faith communities, individuals and other activist groups working to reduce the escalating harm of our immigration system in the current political context."

Hymn*

#55

Dark of Winter

Benediction

Nicola Wilbar

Extinguish the Chalice

Nicola Wilbar

Postlude

Chalice Choir

Return Again – Hashiveinu

by Shlomo Carlebach/Traditional; Arr. Elizabeth Norton

Announcements

John Mullen

Joys and Concerns

John Mullen

Sung Benediction

Go Your Way in Peace (See back cover)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service:

Greeters: Vi Fairweather and Jeff Giddings
Worship Associate: John Mullen
Sound: JR Pucillo-Dunphy
Live Streaming: Cate Vanzant
Coffee Hour Hosts: Lois Aldrich & Gil Cote

This morning we welcome Nicola Wilbar to the pulpit. Nicola has a Master's degree in Social Work and post-graduate training in Psychosynthesis, which is, among other things, a spiritual therapeutic modality. She worked for several years as a therapist before becoming disabled in 2004. She is a proud member of our congregation. She enjoys sharing her spirituality with others and feels especially privileged to make sacred music with those who share her values.

Our Mission:

To create and sustain a welcoming and caring community that embodies our UU principles, inspires spiritual growth without dogma or creed, and promotes and serves racial and social justice.

Church Website Address:
<https://uumiddleboro.org>

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Religious Exploration Classes

Today we are considering life cycles and the concept of metamorphosis. We may consider going outside for a hike if time and weather permit to find some signs of metamorphosis.

Nursery During the Worship Service

Niko Pucillo-Dunphy and Jesse Hoyle offer child care during the church service. Please feel free to bring your infants and toddlers to have fun with Niko and Jesse while you are in the sanctuary participating in the service.

Roller Skating at Forest Family Fun Center

Today we will be joining the Taunton church from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. We will meet at the Center. I make sure there are enough adults to supervise the children if any parents want to drop off their children and take time out for holiday shopping or cheer.

Holiday Party

The RE Holiday Party is Sunday, December 8, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. We will make and decorate gingerbread houses and ornaments and play games. Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and holiday spirit! Lunch will be supplied. Although this RE family event is not open to the general public, please feel free to invite friends.

Kelly Lownds, Director of Religious Exploration

May We Shine a Light of Love

Words & Music by Joyce Poley

May we shine a light of love, May we shine a light of love,
With ev'ry thought, With ev'ry step we take
May we shine a light of love.

Rise Up, O Flame (#362)

Words: Anonymous; Music: Christoph Praetorius

Rise up, O flame, by thy light glowing,
Show to us beauty, vision, and joy.

CHILDREN'S CALL TO R.E. CLASSES:

Children's Blessing

by First UU Nashville Youth Choir

May your mind be open to new learning.
May your lips bring truth into the world.
May your heart know love, and your hands do the work of justice,
as you go your way in peace,
as you go your way in peace.

Go Now in Peace (#413)

Words & Music by Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you everywhere,
Everywhere you may go.

SUNG BENEDICTIONS:

Go Lifted Up (#1057 teal hymnal)

Words & Music by Mortimer Barron

Go lifted up, Love bless your way,
moonlight, starlight guide your journey into peace
and the brightness of day.

Go Your Way in Peace

by Mozart/Jim Scott

Go your way in peace, wander as you may,
Blessed is the path you take: may love guide you on your way.