

## Song & Circle Dance

“If”

If the people lived their life  
As if it were a song  
For singing out of light  
Become the music for the stars  
To be dancing circles in the night

## Postlude

## Feast

Let's complete the celebration by sharing food and drink and discussion together before we part our merry ways!

### Sunday Services

**Dec 24 Christmas Eve celebration**  
**Have Yourself a Merry Little Unitarian Christmas**

- *Julianne Momirov*

*Ingathering will be at 5:00 p.m. and the service will commence at 5:30. Goodies will be served prior to the service. Please join us.*

**Dec 27 CUC AGM 2009 & UU-UNO - Sofia Vuorinen & John Mayer**

### January 2010

**Jan 3 Reach Out Rather Than Look In - John Mayer**

**Jan 10 Schizophrenia - Margaret Watters S.L. V. Jaeger**

**Jan 17 AIDS Niagara - Marie Belliveau**

**Jan 22 Out of the Cold**

*Hilde Wheeler: 905-685-4936*

**Jan 24 Eliminating Poverty - Sid and Chris Frere**

- *S.L. Sofia Vuorinen*

**Jan 31 Sharing the Faith**

### February 2010

**Feb 7 AGM**

# Unitarian Congregation of Niagara



Winter Solstice Celebration  
Donna Bothen, Tara Kriyachanda

**December 20, 2009**

*223 Church St., St. Catharines, Ontario*  
**www.unitarian-stcatharines.org 905-687-8433**

Lay Chaplains: **905-687-8433**

ucnlaychaplains@gmail.com

Ed Gilbert Valerie Jaeger Julianne Momirov

December 20, 2009  
Winter Solstice Celebration  
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**Opening Words** (see insert)

**Invocation:** "The Beauty Way"

**Story for All Ages**

**Song** #388 "Dona Nobis Pacem"

**Responsive Reading** - Julianne Momirov, Lay Chaplain

In the greatest darkness  
*The light is reborn*  
Out of winter's cold  
*The light is reborn*  
From our deepest fears  
*The light is reborn*  
When we most despair  
*The light is reborn*  
When all seems lost  
*The light is reborn*  
When the earth lies waste  
*The light is reborn*  
When animals hide  
*The light is reborn*  
When the leaves are gone  
*The light is reborn*  
When the river is frozen  
*The light is reborn*  
When the ground is hard  
*The light is reborn*  
Shadows are fleeing  
*The light is reborn*  
Light is returning

*The light is reborn*  
Warmth will come again  
*The light is reborn*  
Summer will be here once more  
*The light is reborn*  
Plants will grow again  
*The light is reborn*  
Animals will be seen once more  
*The light is reborn*  
Green will come again  
*The light is reborn*  
Life will continue  
*The light is reborn*

**Joys and Concerns**

Today this part of the service is taking the form of a  
"Sharing the Flame" Meditation and Candle Ceremony  
Thinking of yourself, the world, or both ... consider:  
What would you like to say goodbye to or leave behind in the  
darkness?  
What would you like to prepare to plant seeds for?

**Invocation**

Light is returning  
Even though this is the darkest hour  
No one can hold back the dawn  
Let's keep it burning  
Let's keep the light of hope alive  
Make safe our journey through the storm  
One planet is turning  
Circles on her path around the Sun  
Earth Mother is calling her children home

**Offertory**

**Song "Deck the Halls" (2 times through) (see insert)**  
*(service continues on back page)*

## Opening Words:

As the winter solstice turns our earth and early twilight closes down the day . . . we come together as people have done from earliest times to celebrate with flame the waning winter and rejoice that our globe now swings once more toward the light. As our burning candles bespeak this ancient faith, so may it express our prayer that the power that directs our planet in its path will set such a solstice for our hopes for the future. From the dark hours of perversity and wrath, we pray that sad humanity may be guided in the path of peace, that like our earth we may emerge from darkness to a brighter day.

By former UUA President, Paul Carnes

The winter solstice is, of course, the time of the shortest daylight and longest night in the year. "With everything so cold and dark outside, winter is a time to turn inside and dream about what we want to plant when the light returns." (Stafford) In the Pagan cycle, it is time of inward reflection and incubation, inward renewal.

"It is also a time to leave some things behind in the dark." (Stafford) This special time of darkness and quiet encourages us to connect with ourselves through practices that tie us to the cycling pageant of the year.

In each of the observances of Hanukkah, Ramadan, and Christianity, which converge during December, light and darkness play a role. Most cultures hold for Winter Solstice a recognition of rebirth, involving various holidays and celebrations. (Wikipedia)

Happily, the winter solstice celebrates the return of the sun's light.

From various sources, except where indicated from Annika Stafford's

"Aisha's Moonlit Walk" or Wikipedia on-line

## Song "Deck the Halls" (2 times through)

Deck the halls with boughs of holly  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
'Tis the season to be jolly  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Don we now our gay apparel  
Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la.  
Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

See the blazing Yule before us.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Strike the harp and join the chorus.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Follow me in merry measure.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
While I tell of Yule-tide treasure.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Fast away the old year passes.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Hail the new year, lads and lasses  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Sing we joyous, all together.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Heedless of the wind and weather.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.