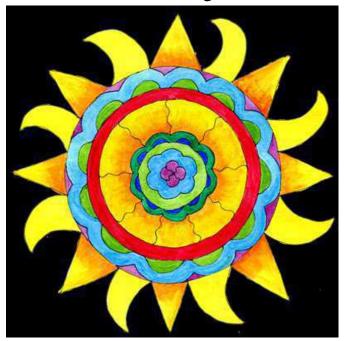
The Long Dark Night... And The Sun



Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists 15 December 2013

The Seven Principles

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Wiesbaden Unitarian Universalists

15December2013

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

Welcome

Prelude Forever in Love (Kenny G) Jason White

Opening Reading

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light. To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight, and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings, and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.

Wendell Berry

Hymn #346 Come, Sing A Song With Me

Chalice Lighting

Come we now out of the darkness of our unknowing and the dusk of our dreaming;
Come we now from far places.
Come we now into the twilight of our awakening and the reflection of our gathering.
Come we now all together.

We bring, unilluminated, our dark caves of doubting; We seek, unbedazzled, the clear light of understanding. May the sparks of our joining kindle our resolve, brighten our spirits, reflect our love, and unshadow our days. Come we now; enter the dawning.

Annie Foerster

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

We invite you to light a candle at this time as an expression of your joy or concern that you'd like to share.

"I light this last candle for all joys and concerns left unspoken this day."

Story for All Ages

The Night Tree by Eve Bunting Illustrated by Ted Rand "Go now in peace, go now in peace/May the spirit of love surround you/

Everywhere, everywhere/ You may go."

Meditation Reading

The Peace of Wild Things

Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me

and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time

Meditation

Discussion E

Endings Are Beginnings: From the Darkness into the Light

Darrel Moellendorf

Hymn #1064 Blue Boat Home

Benediction

Wisdom, be thou more precious than possessions without end.

Truth, be thou more sacred than the pleasing of a friend.

Courage, be thou our strength to gain the distant goal.

I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Beauty, send thou a cleansing wonder to our souls.

Kindness, be thou our guide upon life's way.

Peace, be thou the benediction of our day. Amen.

~Reverend Don Harrington

Extinguishing the Chalice In unison:

"We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment which it here symbolizes. These, we carry in our hearts until we are together again."

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### Please join us for refreshments and conversation after the

#### Calendar

#### 22 December Winter Solstice Celebration

Contact WiesbadenUU@gmail.com for details.

5 January Hainerberg Chapel

14:00 UU Orientation/Discussion & Questions

15:00 Book/Movie Discussion

19 January

Sunday Service 14:00 Hainerberg Chapel

service.

"Our Christian wisdom is to name the darkness as darkness, and the Light as light, and to learn how to live and work in the Light so that that "the darkness does not overcome it" (John 1:5). But we can never deny that darkness exists, even in ourselves.

If we have a pie-in-the-sky, everything-is-beautiful attitude, we are in fact going to be trapped by the darkness because we are not seeing clearly enough to allow both the wheat and the chaff of everything. Conversely, if we can only see the darkness and forget the more foundational Light, we will be destroyed by our own negativity and fanaticism, or we will naïvely think we are apart from and somehow above the darkness.

Instead, we must wait and work with hope inside of the darkness—while never doubting the Light that Jesus says he is (<a href="Iohn 8:12">Iohn 8:12</a>)—and that we are too! Many people do not notice that he also says we are the light of the world too (<a href="Matthew 5:14">Matthew 5:14</a>). That is the narrow birth canal of God into the world— <a href="through">through</a> the darkness and into an ever-greater Light, but a light that we carry with us and in us."

From <u>Preparing for Christmas With Richard Rohr: Daily</u> <u>Meditations for Advent</u>, by Father Richard Rohr (St. Anthony Messenger Press Books, 2008)

### Reflect

In what parts of your life are you trying to push away darkness instead of living with it as a teacher and transformer?

How do you sustain yourself/incubate/rejuvenate in the dark season?

What are you excited about as, after the solstice, the light slowly but surely returns?