

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

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

Meditation

Discussion *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.
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](mailto: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 naively 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 ([John 8:12](#))—and that we are too! Many people do not notice that he also says we are the light of the world too ([Matthew 5:14](#)). That is the narrow birth canal of God into the world—*through* the darkness and into an ever-greater Light, but a light that we carry with us and in us.”

From [\*Preparing for Christmas With Richard Rohr: Daily Meditations for Advent\*](#), 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?