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Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Lara Cowtan

[Live streamed](#) from the UCV Sanctuary – 7 pm, **December 24, 2020**



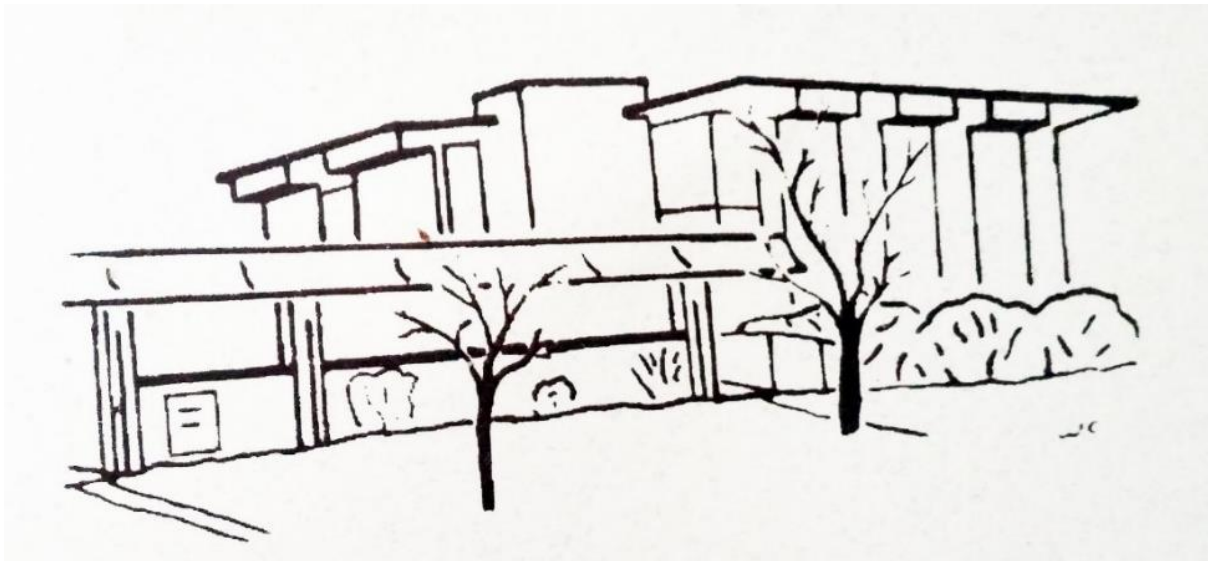
Sunday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Lara Cowtan

Join us in this festival commemoration of Christmas! We observe this special evening with carols, candles, readings, and the spoken word. This is a special service full of meaning and peace; invite your friends and family.

Live stream link: <https://ucv.im/live>



Winter COVID-19 Updates

Following the provincial health order on November 7, 2020, we have cancelled or postponed all social events on the UCV campus for the time being. For more information and ongoing updates on our COVID policies, please visit: <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/covid-19-update/>.

****UCV HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE ****

Dear congregants and friends, please note that the UCV office will be closed from the end-of-day on Thursday, December 17, and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021. The staff team is arranging coverage so that we can respond to time-sensitive matters.

Parents, Children, and Youth

How to continue feeling connected and renewed in this virtual pandemic time? The Children and Youth Religious Exploration team has programs and ideas in the works—The list below is all of our regular drop-in virtual connections with Zoom ongoing this Fall.

Please contact Director of Religious Exploration, Kiersten Moore, to be notified about in-person outdoor meetups and special programs: dre@vancouverunitarians.ca

Holding connection space for kids and youth requires adult support!

Please visit the website to learn how you can be an adult member of our Family Ministry team. There are both large and small roles to fill: <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/cyre-volunteer/>
Fill out the form to “line up outside Kiersten’s door”: ucv.im/RE-volunteer

Online Connection Spaces

Coffee Hour Breakout rooms: Sundays 12:00—1:00 pm ucv.im/coffee

Weekly all-ages breakout room for kid-centered space led by member volunteers: see friends, check-in and play games. Or join any other conversation group!

Children’s activity and check-in: Sundays 10:20—10:50 am ucv.im/kids-zoom

Beginning September 13th, Nan and Mairy co-host this time specifically for children ages 5-9 (any age welcome). Activity or story ties in to our Soul Matters theme of the month. See each other, share a story and a simple activity or craft that we can do together at home.

Tween’s Ukelele Social: Sundays 3:30 – 4:30 pm ucv.im/tween-zoom

Kids in grades 5-7 (ages 10-12), learn to play ukulele (instruments loaned from UCV), hang-out together with games and activities based on our monthly Soul Matters Theme. Drop in any Sunday and get a registration link.

Youth Group! Sundays 3:00—5:00 pm ucv.im/youth-zoom

High School Youth meet to share, explore, come up with distant game time, and generally connect. Drop-in any Sunday—from near and far.

Youth Dungeons and Dragons: Wednesdays 7:00—9:00 pm ucv.im/youthDnD

Exactly what you might think; an ongoing D&D campaign led by one of our youth, supported by adult advisors who are also in on the campaign. Youth-centered, multi-gen, role-playing fun. Contact [Olivia Hall](#) for more information, new characters are welcome to join.

If you would like resources for Unitarian-centered family time and activities to do with your children let me know using this form: <https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/Sabbath-at-Home>

Celebration of Worship: December 24, 2020

Prelude	<i>Medley of Christmas Carols</i>	Elliott Dainow, piano
Opening Words & Kindling the Chalice Flame		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Opening Carol	#253: <i>Oh Come All Ye Faithful</i>	Elliott Dainow
Readings	<i>Luke 2:1-14</i> <i>A Reflection on the Gift of the Stuffy Barn</i>	King James Version W. F. Schultz
Carol	#55: <i>Dark of Winter</i>	Chalice Choir Leads
Carol	<i>Huron Carol (Twas in the Moon of Wintertime)</i> Sung by Aidan Pitt-Brooke & Tara Bonham	Jean de Brébeuf
Lighting Advent Candles; Hope, Love, Joy & Peace		Laureen Stokes
Musical Response	<i>Oiche Nollag (Christmas Eve)</i>	Traditional Irish Played by Tara Bonham (Celtic harp)
Offering: <i>We deeply appreciate your presence here, your offerings and the gifts you share.</i>		
<p>We continue to support the work of this congregation and our outreach opportunities recipient through an online offering. You may use text-to-give now (Simply text an amount to 778-771-1707 to get started today, or visit http://ucv.im/give for more information!) or donate online through our secure Breeze interface.</p>		
Carol	#244: <i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	Chalice Choir Leads
Readings	<i>Breathed into the World</i> <i>To Live a Life – Not Merely a Season</i>	By Rev. Sandra Fees By John Haynes Holmes
Carol	<i>Walking in a Winter Wonderland</i>	Bomford-Moore Family
Carol	<i>Frosty the Snowman</i>	Breisnes Family
Reading	<i>A Visit from St. Nicholas</i>	By Clement Clark Moore
Carol	#235: <i>Deck the Hall</i>	Chalice Choir Leads
Lighting Christmas Eve Candle		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Carol and Candles	#251: <i>Silent Night</i>	Erin Moulding
Benediction & Extinguishing the Chalice Flame		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Valediction	<i>Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again (x2)</i>	

UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

A LIVING LIST OF ESSENTIAL LINKS: The following is a condensed list of UCV community links:

- <https://ucv.im/live>: Live stream link for Sunday church services (active at 10:55am each Sunday morning)
- <https://ucv.im/order-of-service>: View an online version of the current Order of Service
- <https://ucv.im/coffee>: Virtual coffee hour – every Sunday immediately following the service
- <https://ucv.im/give>: Instructions on how to make a donation/gift
- <https://ucv.im/events>: The most frequently updated list of UCV events
- <https://ucv.im/sermons>: A text-based archive of past services/sermons
- <https://ucv.im/core-documents>: An online repository for important UCV documents such as board minutes, annual reports, and so forth.

Many of our community gatherings have moved online. For a complete list of upcoming events, please visit <https://ucv.im/events>. If you would like to add your zoom event to the list please contact Marie Witt at communications@vancouverunitarians.ca

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Thursday, December 24, at 7pm. Please join us in this festival commemoration of Christmas! We observe this special evening with carols, candles, readings, and the spoken word. This is a special service full of meaning and peace; invite your friends and family to join us via live stream at <https://ucv.im/live>

UCV ONLINE HISTORY WALL: The Wall is building! What is your story? What brought you to UCV? What keeps you here? What is important to you? Go to padlet.com/vancouverunitarian/stories to add your reflections, pictures and videos.

SEWISTS, KNITTERS, MENDERS, CRAFTERS: The UCV mending hour is back on Zoom for the Winter! We are planning to meet twice per month (one daytime and one evening). We can show-and-tell what we're working on, dream up workshops that might be possible over zoom, watch tutorials, and generally share a social hour of craftyness to get us through the isolation. Everyone and all skill levels welcome. Dates and Zoom link: <https://ucv.im/mending>

RECURRING ZOOM GATHERINGS: All the gatherings listed at vancouverunitarians.ca/zoom-gatherings.

- Virtual coffee hour; Sundays at 12 pm: <https://ucv.im/coffee>
- Neighbourhood group connections; 1st Tuesdays at 7:30 pm: <https://ucv.im/neighbourhoods>
- Zoom practice sessions; 1st Tuesdays from 4 – 5 pm: <https://www.ucv.im/zoom>

UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEWCOMERS: Would you like to learn more about UCV and Unitarians? Join us in the breakout room at Coffee Hour after the service (<http://ucv.im/coffee>) First and Third Sundays. See you there!

MANY, MANY THANKS to everyone who contributed to the special collection for our friends in Burundi at our service on November 22. The funds are going to the Rutana Women's project and so far we have raised \$3015 . This money will go to purchase special sewing machines , rental space and a guard to protect the equipment. Alison Pearson (Chair PCC)

THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE is pleased to announce that seven new benches have been installed on the UCV campus to honour the following past and present members: Joan and Noel Armstrong, Virginia Crabill, Ann Foster, Wolfgang and Hilde Gerson, Tony Roper, Barbara and John Taylor, Lesia and John Voth. Many thanks to all the donating families who have chosen this way to both honour their loved ones and to enhance the UCV grounds. We can all look forward to sitting on these beautiful benches once we are able to gather in person again.



A NOTE FROM CARE & CONCERN: Some of life's challenges are pretty manageable. Others leave us feeling very alone and overwhelmed, or demand great contemplation. Our Care and Concern volunteers work closely with our minister to support members and friends who are in times of transition and need. We are here if you need a tender heart in a moment of sorrow, happy cheer in a moment of joy; a meal or a ride in a moment of need; or personal support in difficult circumstances such as: grief, illness, marital changes, isolation, etc. Contact Care & Concern (careandconcern@vancouverunitarians.ca) or Rev. Lara Cowtan (604-261-7204, x.223 / rev.lara@vancouverunitarians.ca)

OUR LIBRARY IS AVAILABLE! The door to the library is still locked for now but our librarian, David Buchanan, will arrange loans for members/adherents by either snail mail or pick-up at our 49th & Oak location. Just email David <davidfbuchanan@gmail.com> to let him know what you would like to borrow and he'll work out the details with you. Please note there is an "f" between David and Buchanan in the address. Happy reading!

A Common Read for Vancouver Unitarians: Transition Team members have been reading *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations*. It's full of interesting stories about transitions, a wealth of information about the potential role of an Interim Minister and intriguing ideas for Vancouver Unitarians to consider. Extra copies are available for loan. Just email David Buchanan <davidfbuchanan@gmail.com> to arrange the loan by mail or pick-up. Here's an excerpt:

"Telling our stories is not an end in itself, but an attempt to release ourselves from them, to evolve and grow beyond them. We tell our stories to transform ourselves; to learn about our history and tell our experiences to transcend them; to use our stories to make a difference in our world; to broaden our perspective to see further than normal; to act beyond a story that may have imprisoned or enslaved us; to live more of our spiritual and earthly potential" (p 43).

UCV REFUGEE COMMITTEE NEWS: The Refugee Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our recent greeting card fundraiser. This initiative brought in \$3,000 all of which will be used to assist refugees that UCV welcomes to Vancouver through the Canadian Government Private Sponsorship Program. Keep an eye open for other fundraising projects that our committee will be bringing to your attention in the coming year.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR NEEDED! The communications committee is looking for a new chair to work closely with staff and lay leaders. We need someone comfortable with technology who will bring leadership, creativity and energy! We promise to make sure this volunteer workload is an uplifting and manageable effort. Please contact Marie communications@vancouverunitarians.ca if interested!

SOUL MATTERS: If you would like to receive the Soul Matters Chalice Home packets supporting creating a home altar and guidance on monthly home worship around our themes please fill out this Breeze form: <https://ucv.im/themes-home> or contact Kiersten Moore, dre@vancouverunitarians.ca

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND: The OOF recipient for this Sunday's collection is The Treehouse Vancouver Child and Youth Advocacy Centre which has formed a multi-disciplinary team to intervene in and prevent child abuse and violence. The team comprises staff from VPD and three child and youth care agencies. Its' programs and services build networks and community support systems that promote safe and sustainable environments for children, youth and their families. A critical goal of the centre is to raise awareness of child abuse in Vancouver.

OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

LOOKING FOR MEANINGFUL WORK? The Memorial Society of BC (UCV Tenant) is hiring! We are looking for a compassionate, efficient person to help part or full time with office duties. Must be detail oriented and able to work independently. If you are a good communicator (phone and email) and comfortable talking about end-of-life planning, please get in touch for more information: admin@memorialsocietybc.org
We look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, Dec. 27: Leavings and Longings: Fire Communion 2020
Mary Bennett, Patrick Dubois, & Wendy Bryan

Sunday, Jan 3: Back to the Future!
Rev. Lara Cowtan

Sunday, Jan 10: You Might Be Wrong
Rev. Lara Cowtan

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

**SOUND & LIVE STREAM TECH
CARETAKER(S)
FLOWERS**

Christian Malcolm
N/A

Chris Pearce, Diane Donaldson, Lorraine Calame



We actively welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities!

Our Vision

Because we envision a more compassionate world, we seek to deepen our spiritual and religious lives, grow and enrich our congregation, and advocate for love and justice.

Living Our Vision

As Unitarians, we are dedicated to spiritual growth, social justice, and reverence for nature and all life. We embody these values through worship, ethical action, artistic expression, and religious education for all ages that aim to connect hearts, heads, and hands. Our congregation welcomes all ages, orientations, abilities, and identities in our joyous search for meaning.

MINISTER AND STAFF

INTERIM PARISH MINISTER

Rev. Lara Cowtan

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kiersten Moore

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Donna Brown

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Elliott Dainow

CARETAKERS

Ben Yeung, Paul Nash, Karen Hertz,
Taka Shimojima, Vivian Davidson, Sam Shenher

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Olivia Hall

OFFICE COORDINATOR/ ORDER OF SERVICE

Marcus Hynes

BOOKKEEPER

Gordon Lowe

LAY CHAPLAINS

Laureen Stokes, Cheryl Amundsen,
Louise Bunn

Regular Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:30 am to 2 pm

Telephone: 604-261-7204

Email: info@vancouverunitarians.ca | **Web:** www.vancouverunitarians.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/vancouverunitarians | **Instagram:** instagram.com/vancouverunitarian

There is a new monthly e-bulletin! If you've signed up for our newsletters previously, you will automatically receive the new e-bulletin, but if not please go to vancouverunitarians.ca/e-bulletin/ to sign up or visit ucv.im/newsletter to see the latest copy.