

**UU Church of Columbia, MO**  
Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister  
**“The Longest Night”**  
**All Ages Solstice Service**  
December 22, 2024

**Welcome**

**Prelude** — “Winter Lullaby” by Pinkzebra – UUCC Choir – directed by Violet Vonder Haar, accompanied by Neil Minturn

**Opening Words**

**Hymn** — “O Holy Darkness, Loving Womb”

*O Holy Darkness, loving Womb, who nurtures and creates,  
sustain us through the longest night with dreams of open gates.  
We move inside to mystery that in our center dwells,  
where streams of richest beauty flow from sacred, living wells.*

*Creative Darkness, closest friend, you whisper in the night;  
you calm our fears as unknown paths surprise us with new sight.  
We marvel at your bounty, your gifts so full and free,  
unfolding as you waken us to new reality.*

*O Holy Night of deepest bliss, we celebrate your power;  
infuse us with your energy that brings our seeds to flower.  
The voice out of the darkness excites our warmest zeal  
to bring together dark and light, true holiness reveal.*

**Chalice Lighting & Words of Affirmation**

*Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law;  
this is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

## **CRADLED IN THE DARKNESS**

**Centering Moment** – Jamila Batchelder

**Stones of Joy and Sorrow**

**Joys & Sorrows Prayer**

**Hymn** — “Singing with You”

*Singing, singing with you, singing with you is my prayer...  
Laughing...Crying...Resting...Dreaming...*

## **PLANTING IN THE DARKNESS**

**Reading** – “untitled” by adrienne maree brown

**Musical Interlude** – “Winter Solstice Round” by Libana – UUCS Choir – directed by Violet Vonder Haar, accompanied by Neil Minturn

**Seeds of Love** – those gathered

## **DREAMING IN THE DARKNESS**

**Reflection** – Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon

**Musical Meditation** – Violet Vonder Haar

**Dream Litany**

Unison Response: *We dream beauty for our world.*

**\*Hymn #55** — “Dark of Winter”

**Offertory** – “Solstice Song” by Jan Garrett, arr. Larry Nickel – UUCC Choir – directed by Violet Vonder Haar, accompanied by Neil Minturn

*This morning’s offering is for the work of the congregation.*

**Give by text to 573-405-1202**

*General collection: Enter amount, with or without a dollar sign*

*Pledge: Enter amount, then a space, then the word pledge*

**Or give online at <https://uucomo.org/give/>**

**Closing Words**

**\*Sung Benediction**

*Now on leaving one another,  
May we give of hand and heart.  
Let us share our benediction,  
Lovingly before we part.*

\* Please stand or remain seated as you feel most comfortable.

Is there a way we can make our worship service or community more accessible to you?  
Let us know. Email the minister at [minister@uucomo.org](mailto:minister@uucomo.org) or call 442-5764.

**Church Staff:** Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister; April Rodeghero, Church Administrator; Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education; Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry; Phylshawn Johnson, Sound Technician