

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of Columbia, MO**

“Tending the Sparks”

Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon & Jamila Batchelder, DRE

With the UUCC Choir, Directed by Violet Vonder Haar

& Accompanied by Victoria Joy

December 21, 2025

Gathering Song – “When You Arrive” by Anni Zylstra

When you arrive

We all arrive

So come on in

Let’s begin

This place awaits

The love you bring

So welcome home

And let us sing

Welcome

Prelude — “Winter Song” by Ingrid Michaelson and Sarah Bareilles – UUCC Choir

Opening Words

***Hymn #55** – “Dark of Winter”

Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me.

Let my thoughts go where they will; ease my mind profoundly.

And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal.

Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me.

*Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise, let your peace flow through me.*

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.*

Centering Moment

Stones of Joy and Sorrow

Joys & Sorrows Prayer

***Hymn – “Rest Sleep” by MaMuse**

*Rest, Sleep, Go Deep
Take time for all your making
Tending now your inner fire
Before the earth is waking*

Reading – “Beneath the Slow Stars: Approaching Solstice” by Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Reflection – Molly Housh Gordon

Sharing – Those Gathered

Tending the Sparks – “Tending the Spark” by Heather Houston – UUCC Choir

Blessing – Molly Housh Gordon

***Hymn – “Hope” by Violet Vonder Haar**

PART ONE

*Just because you don't see it
Doesn't mean, it's not it's not happening*

PART TWO

*Even in the darkness
And the uncharted
In the unknown
There is always hope*

PART THREE

*Listen to the unknown
Follow where it wants you to go*

PART FOUR

*Never give up
Never give up*

Offertory – “North” by Sleeping at Last – UUCC Choir

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 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; Monica Clark-Robinson, Intern Minister