

ORDER OF SERVICE – FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

November 27, 2005

9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

“Faith” is a fine invention
For gentlemen who *see*,
But *Microscopes* are prudent
In an emergency!

Emily Dickinson

* **Gathering Song #347** *Gather the Spirit*

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our separate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

* **Call to Worship**

* **Lighting the Chalice** (spoken in unison)

We light this chalice
On this first Sunday of the Christmas season,
For the renewal of faith,
The wonder of hope,
The beauty of love,
And the gift of joy.

* **Choral Response**

+++++Latecomers may be seated+++++

Responsive Reading

MINISTER: On this first Sunday of the Christmas Season we gather together in our sanctuary to celebrate the wonder, glory, and joy of life.

CONGREGATION: Generation after generation – children and adults – all those with open hearts and minds – have celebrated the qualities of Christmas.

MINISTER: We do not always come to the Christmas season with happy hearts and carefree minds. We are not always ready to sing and rejoice.

CONGREGATION: Sometimes we are burdened with personal sorrow. Sometimes our community is torn with dissension. Sometimes our world is ravished with war.

MINISTER: Sometimes, even at Christmas, the world seems dark and dreary. We are burdened with the memory of too many failures, too many defeats, too much sorrow.

CONGREGATION: Sometimes loneliness, fear, selfishness, discouragement, and resentment turn the bells of Christmas into bitter mockery.

MINISTER: At such times we must remind ourselves that the lights and bells and songs of Christmas are meant to celebrate not only the good we know, but the wonder and glory we have lost and would find again.

CONGREGATION: So we come to our church this morning at the beginning of the Christmas season to open our hearts and minds to all that is good and beautiful and worthy to be treasured.

MINISTER: We come in the strong and confident faith that if we seek we will find, and if we open our hearts we will be filled with the joy and wonder of life.

(Duncan E. Littlefair, adapted)

Lighting the Candle of Faith

9:15: Ellie Forbes

11:15: Ben Mitchell

Hymn #225

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(During the last verse of hymn children are asked to leave for their classes through the arch formed by persons on the center aisle.)

Reading

Joys and Sorrows

Prayer/Meditation, Period of Silence

Musical Response

Congregational Announcements

Offering & Offertory

Special Music

Sermon

What Is Faith?

* **Closing Hymn #253**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

* **Benediction & Extinguishing the Chalice**

* **Closing Song #388**

Dona Nobis Pacem

Dona nobis pacem, pacem; dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem; dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem; dona nobis pacem.

* Please rise as willing and able

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Week's Service, December 4, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m. Guest Speaker, Prof. Charles Goodrich. Sermon: *Science, Poetry, and Praise*.

On this Sunday, the second Sunday of the Christmas season, we light the second candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope. We also welcome as our speaker, professor and poet Charles Goodrich, who has had a number of his poems read by Garrison Keillor on the National Public Radio program, "The Writer's Almanac." Prof. Goodrich will also be leading a workshop and giving a public reading on the preceding day, Saturday, December 3.

You have an opportunity to come to one of three **Small Group Discussions about the future direction of QUUF**. Each group of 10-15 people will meet for about one hour on three Sundays in December. We will share ideas in a directed format about what is most vital to us and who we want to be as a Fellowship in the years to come.

Dates to choose from are **December 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m., December 11, 12:30-1:30 p.m., and December 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m.** Please sign up for a specific date by e-mailing Heather Flanagan at heather@heatherflanagan.com, calling the church office, or sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Additional sessions will be scheduled as needed. And look for future sessions, surveys and updates from the three teams: Long Range Planning, Building Options, and Capital Campaign.

A Volunteer training session will be held Dec. 4th, 3-5 p.m., in the sanctuary. This session will be for ushers, greeters, coffee makers and sound people. Delectable desserts will be served!

A workshop and poetry reading with Charles Goodrich, poet and professor at Oregon State University, will be held this coming **Saturday, December 3, at QUUF.**

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP: "Talon and Burr: How Does Nature Grab Us?" A workshop to share strategies for writing about nature; Sat., December 3, 1:00-4:00 p.m., \$25 advanced registration. Limited to 15 persons.

EVENING LECTURE: "Working the Ground between Science and Poetry." In the web of ways of human understanding, where do poetry and science interconnect? Sat., Dec. 3, 7 p.m. \$5 advanced tickets. More information and a registration form are available at the back of the sanctuary.

There will be a **Christmas "Giving Tree" meeting Nov. 29th, 7-8:30 p.m.** in R.E. 2. Please help make sure this fine project continues.

Christmas Party - Our annual Christmas Tree Trimming and Caroling Party will be held on Friday Dec 2nd, 6:30-8:30. Please bring a snack or dessert to share.

Since **Christmas Day** this year falls directly on Sunday, December 25, **there will no Christmas Day Sunday service** (having had 3 services the evening before). However, the staff is proposing a **Christmas Day Fellowship Potluck Dinner** to begin at 2 p.m. that day. We estimate it would take 10 interested persons to make this happen. If you wish to be part of such a gathering, please indicate your interest by signing at the back of the sanctuary by **Sunday, December 11.**

Two additional Joseph Campbell videos to be shown. All are welcome to view the first interviews that Bill Moyers did with Joseph Campbell five years before the popular 6-part Power of Myth series. These original interviews, titled Myths to Live By, Part I and II, are, to me, even more interesting than the later series. These will be shown and discussed at two different times: Tuesdays, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m., and Fridays, Dec. 2 and 9, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Persons who did not attend the just completed classes are invited to join us. (B. Bode)

WHEEL OF LIFE

Jack Forrest underwent a successful heart by-pass surgery on Friday, November 18, at Harrison Hospital in Bremerton, and hopes to be home by the end of the week.

Otto Smith underwent successful heart valve replacement surgery a week and a half-ago and is back home and around town.

Joel Johanson continues to recover at home from pneumonia.