



First Unitarian Church of Omaha  
December 24, 2023  
A Folk/Rock Christmas  
with the Offbeats and special guest, Markos Gutierrez

**Welcome & Land Acknowledgment** - Douglas

**Prelude** - Silent Night, Eaton & Grant; The Offbeats

**Chalice Lighting**

*Spark of the spirit cupped in earth's embrace,  
Light of love alive in all creation,  
as we kindle this flame, we rekindle our connection  
to the sacred web of life.*

**Call to Worship** - "Stopping by Snowy Woods," by Robert Frost

**Opening Hymn** - #235 Deck The Hall

**Community Offering** - Each month one-half of the loose currency in the offering plate is donated to a cause with a local presence which advances important principles of Unitarianism. December's recipient is **Youth Emergency Services (YES)**. YES serves homeless and at-risk youth by providing critically needed resources that empower them to become self-sufficient. Go here for more information: <https://www.yesomaha.org/>

**Offertory** - The Christians & Pagans; The Offbeats

*To donate online, use this QR code (at right), or go to <https://www.firstuomaha.org/donations>, then scroll down to the selection for this month's Share the Plate recipient and click the Donate button, or just [click here](#). Thank you!*



*To share a Joy or Concern, write it in the binder at the back of the sanctuary, or in the chat.*

**Care & Centering**

**Joys & Concerns**

**Musical Interlude**- A Change at Christmas, The Flaming Lips; The Offbeats

**Contemplation - Mary Oliver, "When I am Among the Trees"**

**"Sermon" / Singing Holiday Songs from Around the World**

**Musical Interlude:** Sleigh Ride, Jingle Bell Rock, Happy Xmas/War is Over, John Lennon; The Offbeats; Hine Ma Tov, danced by Della Bynam

**Reading - "New Day's Lyric" by Amanda Gorman**

**Closing Hymn: #147, When All The People of This Earth**

**Closing Words: "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou  
& Extinguishing of Chalice**

**Postlude:** Silent Night, arr. Chip Davis; Connie DeFazio, flute, Skip Ciulla, piano

**Coffee & Conversation - Common Room (basement)**

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**For families:** *Childcare is offered during our Sunday services for infants through preschoolers (nursery in basement). Elementary and middle/high Sunday School classes begin after the Time for All Ages portion of our service. Children of all ages are always welcome to attend the full service with their families in our sanctuary. The service is also streamed in the Common Room downstairs (a convenient place to settle a fussy babe).*

**Hearing Assist Devices** are available in the foyer – along the east wall, or ask an usher / greeter to give you one.

**Please make your body comfortable.** *Feel free to knit or handle fidget toys during the service. Throughout the service, you may sit or stand as works best for your body, too (no compulsory standing for hymns). Restrooms are behind the side door of the sanctuary as you go out, and just down the stairs from the foyer.*



**Coming up...** to learn about [upcoming events](#), classes, and other happenings in the church and beyond, scan the QR code at left. Fill out a yellow [Communication Card](#) (or for those online, [Visitor Form](#)) if you would like to be added to the church's email list. You can also [follow us on Facebook](#) (go to Follow settings and choose Favorites) and opt in to text messages from the church via Remind (<https://www.firstuomaha.org/remind>). Prefer hard copy? Printouts of the latest Church News e-blast are available in the foyer.

