



Kitchissippi
UNITED CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023
Advent 4 at 10 AM
Christmas Eve at 7PM



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 10 AM LIVE STREAM

WWW.KITCHISSIPPIUC.COM

HERE IS THE LINK TO VIEW THE KUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL ON SUNDAYS

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwATU1rozB1PllaRmr2teVA>



Hello folks,

WOW, the Friday before Christmas...or said another way, three more days until Christmas! I hope that all your preparations have led your heart to a place of readiness as we await to hear God's story of Jesus' incarnation again.

We will gather on Sunday morning, to drink hot beverages, eat cookies, possibly cinnamon buns, and share stories of Christmases that we remember. We will have a carol sing throughout the service, so please come with your favourite.

On Sunday evening, Christmas Eve we will gather at 7pm in the sanctuary for a retelling of the Christmas story with the nativity scene growing at the front. Children are invited to help with bringing forward each member of the nativity. We will also have candlelighting at the end, as we sing Silent Night. Please be in touch if you have any questions.

On Wednesday, Orleans United hosted Merry Pridemas and it was lovely. For the 2SLGBTQ+ community and their allies, this service featured the Christmas story told by a drag queen and some beautiful performances. (You'll also see one of our own, Valerie Pellerin, recite a Christmas poem in French!) Another outstanding performance was by Phil Lukie, which starts around the 57 minute mark. He sings a song based on a speech by a Texas Councilman, Joel Burns from 13 years ago. It is very heartwarming...it made me cry. <https://youtu.be/-1sx6iEcj4I>

On behalf of all of the staff of Kitchissippi, we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peace-filled New Year. May this be so for all of Creation and may God's wise and loving presence be felt in the hearts of world leaders and those affected by violence alike.

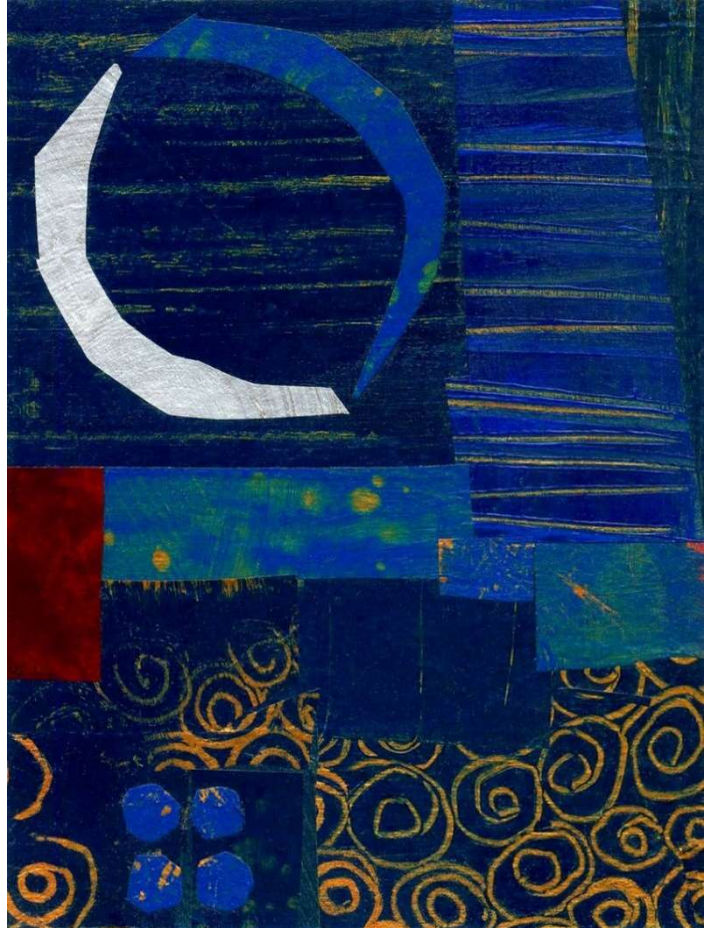
This is the speech the song is based on: <https://youtu.be/ax96cghOnY4?feature=shared>

Warm Christmas Blessings,
Jenni

I offer this beautiful art and these wise words from Jan Richardson:

BLESSING FOR THE LONGEST NIGHT

All throughout these months,
as the shadows
have lengthened,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,
making ready,
preparing for
this night.
It has practiced
walking in the dark,
traveling with
its eyes closed,
feeling its way
by memory,
by touch,
by the pull of the moon
even as it wanes.
So believe me
when I tell you
this blessing will
reach you,
even if you
have not light enough
to read it;
it will find you,
even though you cannot
see it coming.
You will know
the moment of its
arriving
by your release
of the breath
you have held
so long;
a loosening
of the clenching
in your hands,
of the clutch
around your heart;
a thinning
of the darkness
that had drawn itself
around you.
This blessing
does not mean
to take the night away,
but it knows



its hidden roads,
knows the resting spots
along the path,
knows what it means
to travel
in the company
of a friend.

So when
this blessing comes,
take its hand.

Get up.
Set out on the road
you cannot see.

This is the night
when you can trust
that any direction
you go,
you will be walking
toward the dawn.

—Jan Richardson

from *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief*

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 24 – Advent 4 at 10AM/ Christmas Eve Service at 7PM

Sunday, December 31 – First After Christmas/ Lay led - No livestream

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 3 – UCW meeting in the Hall at 1PM

Sunday, January 7 – Epiphany at 10AM

Sunday, January 14 – Second after Epiphany at 10AM

Sunday, January 21 – Third after Epiphany at 10AM

Sunday, January 28 – Fourth after Epiphany at 10AM

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH THANK YOU

Your "White Gifts" at Christmas

Every Christmas, Kitchissippi United Church provides “white gifts” to the residents of two Ottawa Residential Services Homes, Hampton Lodge and Kimberlane Residence. We inherited this tradition from one of our founding churches, Westboro.

This year we were able to provide small gifts to 112 men and 13 women, which were much appreciated. Warm socks for everyone, hats, gloves, lots of toiletries, clementines and some candies and cookies.





The residences are hostels for people, mostly men, not of retirement age, who have nowhere else to go and often have psychological trauma. Many of them are the folks you see on the streets every day, hoping for a small handout.

They are privately owned, and the income they get is from the ODSP of the residents, plus a bit more from the city. These are not charities, so they get very little additional support.

Thank you for your contributions, financial and in kind to the white gift project. Our Christmas donations are much appreciated. Is there more we can do, at another time of the year?

For more information about Residential Services Homes, see <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/creating-equal-inclusive-and-diverse-city/accessibility-city/housing/residential-services-homes-domiciliary-hostels#section-9f0f589c-be4a-4aa5-a425-752bcd6038db>

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU - PLEASE REACH OUT

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THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS
DEC 26- JAN 12, 2024

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