

Thanksgiving and the Coming of Solstice, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of UUJEC,

Thank you for your support of UUJEC over the last 33 years! Together, we have been the UUA's voice for economic fairness. Given research proving the urgency of action needed to stay below 1.5°C in temperature gain and address devastation in coastline communities, we are thankful for *Statements of Conscience* in 2006, [Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change](#) & 2017, [Escalating Economic Inequity](#) With our *Principles*, they state our wish to respond to critical crises of our day.

In 2006 and 2017, perhaps we interpreted them as cautionary and most took only modest steps. Now, given that the World has progressed to a **CLIMATE CODE RED ALERT!** we have the choice, as relatively affluent, educated, global citizens in a thoughtful religion, to do our part to prevent further environmental desecration and aid those most affected by damage already befallen.

Everyone's reduction in energy use makes a difference. Absent government action, UUs, in solidarity with Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, can help create an interfaith culture of *Earth Care*. Our hope is, with the people of Ukraine and millions with no access to electric power at all, UUs' willingness to ration energy use until we reach *net zero* will become contagious with other faiths and reduce future misery. Commitment to save a *livable* planet is necessary. Start with a winter max thermostat at 62°F + long johns. Go all-electric. Shop & bank locally. Plant trees. This is real.

e.e. cummings reminds us of our treasure: *i thank you god for most this amazing day
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
for a blue true dream of sky
for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes!*

UUJEC continues, through monthly programs and a 2023 fall *Climate Emergency* conference, to join with UUA partners to seek economic justice and environmental remedies. We are inspired by your participation in our events. [We appreciate your membership and financial gifts of any size.](#)

Solstice comes as sunlight retreats. It is time for reflection on what is, hard as that now is to face; anticipation of what could come into being with truth-telling, spiritual renewal and preparation.

Our love and best wishes for your **Winter Solstice** and our precious world's **New Year**.

Jane Bannor, Chicago IL

Dick Burkhart, Seattle WA

Judith Deutsch, Corrales NM

Sally Jane Gellert, Woodcliff Lake NJ

Lucy Hitchcock, Salem, OR

Terry Lowman, Ames IA; Miami, FL

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