Deep peace of the quiet earth.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,

Deep peace of the running waves,

Deep peace of the earth to you,

Deep peace of the sky to you,

Deep peace of the sun to you.

A Winter Greeting from the University Chaplain

Dear Tufts community and friends,

As candles are lit, songs sung, prayers offered, gifts exchanged, and memories shared this season, we together seek both justice and joy!

December 21, Saturn and Jupiter will appear to be very close in the sky – a celestial event called "conjunction." This is the closest they have been in over 800 years. Though they are technically still hundreds of millions of miles apart, to us, they will appear to be nearly touching. I hope you claim moments to notice the wonder of this rare astronomical event.

From Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain:

"The whole Jewish tradition is one of looking forward to a New Year, a way into a new calendar year. May your next year be full of openings of goodness, ease, and well-being!

From Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain:

"The Islamic calendar is tied to the movements of our stars, the movement of the earth and the growth of the plants that feed our bodies. Bird migrations, the blooming of trees, the lengthening of days and seasons are the yardsticks of the day.

From Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain:

"From the perspective of humanism, December 21 is a winter solstice – the shortest day of the year. The ancient Romans celebrated this occasion as the winter solstice as the end of winter. In the northern hemisphere, this day is the sun's lowest position in the sky and is also the first day of winter.

From Thomas B. Dawkins, Music Director and Organist

"From a humanist perspective, December 21 is the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. The sun's lowest point in the sky and a sign that the wintry season is here.

From Shelby Carpenter, Program Coordinator:

"The winter solstice is a time to reflect on the darkness of winter and the light of life. May the longest day of the year bring light and hope to your life.

From Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain:

"May your winter and the New Year be filled with tranquility, a reduction of stress and a return to balance.

From Caterina Granger, Program Coordinator

"May your winter break be a time of rest, reflection and renewal. May your New Year be filled with joy.

Thank you for Giving: Giving Tuesday 2020

The academic quad on the Medford campus, in the snow

The University Chaplaincy will be closed from Thursday, December 24 - Sunday, January 3, in accordance with the University's winter closure. We wish you rest and safety in this season.

Thank you for giving. Join Tufts Day of Giving. —


Thank you to all who contributed to the Tufts University Chaplaincy. If you would like to update your information, please contact chaplaincy@tufts.edu or

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Thank you for giving.