

## Evergreen

by Adelaide Northrop, read at the December 2022 Tree Lighting

Evergreen - resilient as the years go by.

This tree will flourish, though the snow stands high.

Beneath its boughs, a sheltering well

For small birds, resting deer, and mice.

When bitter winds throw down a coat of ice,

Cones offer seeds much needed.

One sometimes home is balsam scented,

Another, with fresh cedar bedded.

Blue needles shiver in the breeze.

Clouds swallow whole the highest trees,

Whose shorter limbs in close embrace,

Will form an armature for rime,

Which veils them with a well-starched lace.

Sheltered from the North wind's trace,

They bow, with grace, to wintertime.

One tree is cut in dwindling light.

Taken in that sacred night,

As secret cold drains from its height,

It's given a place of honor, bright

With offered stars, and candlelight

To weaken winter's appetite

For darkness.

Carrying the scent of mystery,

Gifts honor ancient history.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!