

Water Communion

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, September 12, 2021

“Water is versatile. It can be big and powerful, it can quench thirst, it can be healing, it can drown us...Water is always seeking balance and has a place it has to go...When we hold water back we can create power but there is danger when we remove the dam unexpectedly. It’s really flexible and adaptable. It takes the form of our containers. Bruce Lee says ‘Be like water’...If we can understand fully the nature of water we can understand what we’re doing here.”

—Aisha Shillingford

Gathering Music *Festival Prelude for Rosh Hashanah*, Louis Lewandowski John Kramer

Invitation to Greeting The Rev. Heather Janules

Note that during this time, the congregation will be briefly visible in the livestream. If you do not want to be seen, please sit in the back pews, marked accordingly.

Ringing of the Bell *We are called back to worship by the ringing of the bell from our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania*

Community Welcome and Announcements Marcy Tompson

Celebration of Building Stewards

Opening Words By Karen Johnston Heather Janules

First Reflection and Chalice Lighting Drawing from “The Flaming Chalice” by Susan Ritchie
Sam Wilson and Heather Janules

Hymn # 100* *Peace Like a River*

1 I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. (in my soul)

2 I've got joy like a fountain...

3 I've got love like an ocean...

4 I've got pain like an arrow...

5 I've got tears like the raindrops ...

6 I've got strength like a mountain ...

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Meditation Including “2021 / 5782: Anew” by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat Heather Janules

Kindling of the Light *Raindrop Prelude*, Frederic Chopin John Kramer

You are invited to light a candle in the sanctuary or at home, signifying a personal joy or sorrow, at this time.

Silence

Reading From “All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury Marcy Tompson

Anthem *Down to the River to Pray*, Traditional arr. Kramer Adult Choir

Second Reflection “Until We Are Together Again” Heather Janules

Offering Marcy Tompson

This morning, we Share the Plate with the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Emergency Fund**, currently providing critical resources to the Lowlander Center, a grassroots organization of rural Louisiana residents, responding to the impact of previous hurricanes, Hurricane Ida and preparing for future Gulf Coast disasters.

Offertory

Water From an Ancient Well, Abdullah Ibrahim

John Kramer

Affirmation of Shared Ministry

Marcy Tompson

Those who wish to do so are invited to read together the Affirmation.

We gather not for ourselves alone, but to use our common power to build the Beloved Community within and beyond these walls.

We create and reaffirm this covenant this day - to make justice flourish, to practice compassion amidst difference and to embody transformative love.

Invitation to the Pouring of the Waters *When the ushers invite you, please leave the sanctuary by the Mystic Valley Parkway doors for the Pouring and Blessing of the Waters. Those with mobility challenges are welcome to exit the building via the Main Street doors after they pour their water and transition to the Terrace for Coffee Hour.*

Postlude

Reflet d'eau (Reflections on Water), Claude Debussy

John Kramer

At the conclusion of the Postlude, virtual attendees are invited to switch to our Zoom room to witness the Water Ceremony and to join Virtual Coffee Hour. The link is here: www.tinyurl.com/WUSworship

Pouring and Blessing of the Waters *At the common bowl, you are invited to pour your water in silence, offer your own blessing over the water (eight words or fewer) or speak aloud our shared blessing:*

May we know welcome, health, happiness and peace.

Serving Today - The Rev. Heather Janules, Minister · Marcy Tompson, Worship Associate · John Kramer, Director of Music · Sam Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries and Interim Coordinator of Religious Education · Steve Forcucci, Livestream Coordinator

Ushers and Greeters: Kimberly Foley, Fritzie Nace, Sheila Rudolph-Correia, and Sophia Sid

Pastoral Care Associate – Kim Foley: 339-227-0216

Music Notes:

We mark the celebration of Rosh Hashanah, observed last week, and the beginning of our new program year, with Lewandowski's Festival Prelude. Lewandowski, a leader in Jewish liturgical music, published this in a collection of five preludes in 1871.

In observance of Water Communion we have a number of perspectives on this life giving fluid. Chopin's *Raindrop Prelude* gets its name from the repetition of a single note, mimicking the sound of raindrops falling. ♦ *Down to the River to Pray* is a traditional southern gospel song with a long history and a fair number of variations. I like to think of us returning to water as a source of strength that will help move us forward. ♦ South African pianist and composer gives us *Water From an Ancient Well*, first recorded in 1986. ♦ And we conclude with the mesmerizing *Reflet d'eau* by Debussy, where shimmering Impressionism gives us a glimpse of light on water, captured in sound.