

# Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · October 3, 2021 · October's Theme is "Cultivating Relationship"  
An All Community Invocation Sunday

## Centering Thought

"The ancient question, 'Who am I?' inevitably leads to a deeper one: 'Whose am I' – because there is not identity outside of relationship. You cannot be a person by yourself. To ask 'Whose am I' is to extend the question far beyond the little self-absorbed self, and wonder: Who needs you? Who loves you? To whom are you accountable? To whom do you answer?" - Douglas Steer

## Gathering Music

John Kramer

## Invitation to Greeting

The Rev. Heather Janules

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

## Opening Words

by Ian W. Riddell (Adapted)

Heather Janules

## Hymn # 188\*

*Come, Come Whoever You Are*

Come, come, whoever you are,  
wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving.  
Ours is no caravan of despair.  
Come, yet again come.

## First Reflection and Chalice Lighting

Heather Janules and Sam Wilson  
Chalice lit by Alice and Calvin Levering;

Words of Dedication by Michael W. Hennon, Inspired by the Salem Covenant of 1629

## Blessing

May the light within you shine before you, everyday, everyday.  
May the light within you shine before you guide your way, guide your way.  
May the love we share surround you and chase your fears away.  
May the light within you shine before you, this we pray, this we pray.

## Community Welcome and Announcements

Martin Newhouse

## Prayer

Heather Janules

## Kindling of the Light

*Piano Interlude, John Kramer*

John Kramer

*For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.*

## Silence

## Reading

"Kintsugi and Covenant" by Sana Saeed (Abridged)

Martin Newhouse

## Anthem

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, Trad. Gospel Song

Adult Choir

## Second Reflection

"Unlocking the Power of Covenant"

Heather Janules

## Offering

Martin Newhouse

This morning, we Share the Plate with our long-time partner, the **Women's Lunch Place**, continuing to serve poor and homeless women in downtown Boston.

\*Please rise in body or in spirit

**Offertory**

*Deus Abraham*, Camille Saint-Saëns  
Brendan Buckley, Tenor

John Kramer

**Affirmation of Shared Ministry**

Martin Newhouse

*Those who wish to do so are invited to read together the Affirmation of Shared Ministry:*

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.

**Hymn # 318\***

*We Would Be One*

**Benediction**

by Eric Williams

**Postlude**

*Father Abraham*, Nathaniel Dett

**Extinguishing the Chalice**

Martin Newhouse

*Please read together the words for extinguishing the chalice*

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

---

In-person attendees who have mobility challenges and wish to join Coffee Hour on the Bell Tower Terrace are invited to exit the building via the Main Street door, use the ramp and move to the Terrace via the connecting path.

Livestreaming attendees are welcome to join Virtual Social Hour by logging on to [www.tinyurl.com/WUSworship](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUSworship)

**Serving Today**

The Rev. Heather Janules, Minister · Sam Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries and Interim Coordinator of RE  
Martin Newhouse, Worship Associate · John Kramer, Director of Music · Steve Forcucci, Video Coordinator

Ushers and Greeters: Sophia Sid, Phil Coonley, and Gordy McIntosh  
Pastoral Care Associate: Carol Delaney - 781.507.3366

**Music Notes**

This morning we are talking about covenant, and I have chosen music that speaks to religious covenants in the Judeo-Christian tradition. ♦ The origins of *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* may go back to the pre-Civil War African-American singing traditions. Its modern iteration seems to date from the early 1940s. The song alludes to the Biblical passage from 2 Corinthians 5:7: "We walk by faith, not by sight" and James 4:8: "Come near to God and He Will come near to you." ♦ I also find myself thinking on the covenant that Abraham (the father of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - the Abrahamic faiths) made with his God as chronicled in the first book of the Hebrew bible. The Offertory invokes this as a prayer from Tobias 7:15: "The God of Abraham, of Isaac and Jacob be with you, and may he join you together, and fulfill his blessing in you." Dett invokes Abraham by combining the 14th century Hebrew hymn tune, *The God of Abraham Praise*, with the African-American Spiritual *Father Abraham*.

*As part of our commitment to racial justice, each worship service includes wisdom or an artistic gift from people or communities-of-color.*