

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, October 24th, 2021

October's Theme is "Cultivating Relationship"

Centering Thought

"Well into the 20th century, our Unitarian predecessors used to proclaim and teach their children that we believe in 'The Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, the Leadership of Jesus, Salvation through Character, and the Progress of Mankind Onward and Upward Forever.' Quite apart from the fact that we tend not to use so many capital letters, we would today have difficulty saying those words without embarrassment...Yet the people who did say them were just as intelligent, as in tune with their times, and as committed to reason and free thinking as we are. In 2020 ...our current Principles and Purposes may also be perceived to have inadequacies that demand radical rewriting. And therein lies our genius. It's a process that is rightly called renewal or regeneration." – Warren Ross, UU World, 2006

Gathering Music

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

Martin Newhouse

Responsive Invocation

by Scott Alexander

Heather Janules

In a world with so much hatred and violence,
We need a religion that proclaims the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In a world with so much brutality and fear,
We need a religion that seeks justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

In a world with so many persons abused and neglected,

We need a religion that calls us to accept one another and encourage one another to spiritual growth.

In a world with so much dogmatism and falsehood,

We need a religion that challenges us to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

In a world with so much tyranny and oppression,

We need a religion that affirms the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.

In a world with so much inequity and strife,

We need a religion that strives toward the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

In a world with so much environmental degradation,

We need a religion that advocates respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

In a world with so much uncertainty and despair,

All: We need a religion that teaches our hearts to hope, and our hands to care.

First Reflection and Hymn*

“Singing Our Seven Principles”

John Kramer and Heather Janules

One: Each person is worthwhile.
Two: Be kind in all you do.
Three: We help each other learn.
Four: And search for what is true.
Five: All people have a say.
Six: Work for a peaceful world.
Seven: The web of life’s the way,
That will bring us back to me and U.U

Chalice Lighting

by Jennifer Gracen

Sheila Rudolph-Correia and Martin Newhouse

Prayer

Kindling of the Light

Andante, Florence Price

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

Silence

Anthem

The Road Home, Stephen Paulus

Second Reflection

“To Affirm and Promote: A Principled Faith”

Heather Janules

With assistance from Martin Newhouse

Proposed Text for an Eighth Principle: “Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

To learn more about this movement, visit <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

Offering

Martin Newhouse

This morning, we share our gifts with the **UUA’s Side with Love** campaign. In the words of their organizers, “we amplify the voices of the oppressed through online media; we show up in partnership at justice events across the country; we lobby national leaders on immigration reform, racial justice, equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, religious freedom, and more; and above all we work to make love real in the world.”

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically. **Text (781) 230-6690** or visit <https://www.winchesteruu.org/giving/how-to-give/> Please write or type the date of your offering in the memo line or comment field. Note that contributing soon in lieu of one lump sum for a period of time is easier to process and empowers us to send our collective gift as soon as possible.

Offertory

In Autumn, Edward MacDowell

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Affirmation of Shared Ministry *Those who wish to do so are invited to join in the unison 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.

Benediction by Becky Edmiston-Lange (Adapted)

Postlude *Truth, Justice, and the Blues*, James Williams

Extinguishing the Chalice

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

Serving Today

The Rev. Heather Janules, Minister · Martin Newhouse, Worship Associate
John Kramer, Director of Music · Sean Yun and Alex Boskovic, Video Coordinators

Ushers and Greeters: Sophia Sid, Susan Woodward, Cynthia Randall, Scott Randall

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern with an attentive listener. Today's PCA is Vicky Coccoluto - 781-729-9313

Music Notes

For our Kindling music this morning we hear the very beautiful 2nd movement from the Florence Price *Piano Sonata*. I am looking forward to presenting her *Piano Quintet* on our upcoming concert on November 5th. ♦ *The Road Home* reminds us that, "there is no such beauty as where you belong", and I have been desiring to program it this fall as we return in person, at least in part, to our spiritual home. ♦ *In Autumn* celebrates our natural world as articulated in the 7th principle and *Truth, Justice, and the Blues* recognize the 2nd principle.

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