

Welcome to Worship!
Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, October 31st, 2021
Happy Halloween!
October's Theme is "Cultivating Relationship"

Centering Thought

"As a spirit having a human experience, you can choose to not merely exist but to be fully conscious and aware of living in a limited world. When you take a conscious part in life and its multitudes of choices, you won't let life happen to you - you will make life happen for you."
— James Van Praagh, *Ghosts Among Us: Uncovering the Truth About the Other Side*

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

Peter McEntee

Invocation

by Andrea Hawkins-Kamper

Heather Janules

First Reflection and Chalice Lighting

"The Stories We Tell"
Words of Dedication by Andrew Pakula (Adapted)

Heather Janules

Hymn #52*

In Sweet Fields of Autumn

Meditation

"A Thousand Voices" by Tania Yadira Márquez (Abridged)

Kindling of the Light

Elevation No. 1, Marcel Dupre

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

Silence

Introduction

First Story

"The Greenbriar Ghost"

Donna Reed

Anthem

A Dance of Ghosts, Hector Berlioz

Second Story

"Ralph Waldo Emerson's Visit"

Peter McEntee

Third Story

"A Message from Charles"

Heather Janules

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Offering

Peter McEntee

This morning, we share our gifts with the **Hospice and Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts**, connecting individuals with organizations providing compassionate end-of-life resources and care for patients and their families.

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

Die Erlkönig, Franz Schubert

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.

Second Reflection

“Lessons from Fresh Hell”

Heather Janules

Benediction

Annie and Johanna

Postlude

The Graceful Ghost Rag, William Bolcom

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 SpUUktacular are invited to exit the building via the Main Street door, use the ramp and move to the back of the building via the sidewalks.

Livestreaming attendees are welcome to join Virtual Social Hour by logging on to www.tinyurl.com/WUSworship

Serving Today

The Rev. Heather Janules, Minister · Peter McEntee, Worship Associate
John Kramer, Director of Music · Sean Yun, Livestream Coordinator

Ushers and Greeters: John Russell, Sophia Sid

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern with an attentive listener. Today's PCA is Dennis Brett – 781-572-1821

Music Notes

On this day of Halloween, we explore some music inspired by the supernatural. The 19th century French composer Berlioz gives us an imagining of Ghosts dancing in the night, playfully taunting their human counterparts. The text is also full of interesting thoughts on life: “Let none dispute for rank or honor, for clown is equal now with king; the pride of place, that once we sought for is now for us a futile thing!” It is also a sobering reminder of our mortality in that: “we shall meet one day in the Unseen!”.

Perhaps Schubert’s most famous song was *Die Erlkönig*, a setting of a poem by Goethe. It tells the story of a midnight ride by a desperate father and his ailing son. During the stormy night, the Erlkönig (elf king or king of the faeries) calls to the boy and lures him away from our mortal realm. A full translation is long for these notes, but you can hear the music turn sweet and charming when the Erlkönig speaks to the boy and the terror of the boy calling out “mein Vater (my father)”. The father does not hear the Erlkönig call and tries to explain away his son’s fears by rational means (a wisp of fog or rustling leaves). All throughout you hear the pounding beat of the thundering horse in the piano. Tragically the father arrives at his destination to find his son dead in his arms.

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