

## Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
December's Theme is "Opening to Joy"

### Centering Thought

"A custom existed among the first generations of Christians, when faith was a bright fire that warmed more than those who kept it burning. In every house then a room was kept ready for any stranger who might ask for shelter; it was even called 'the stranger's room.' Not because these people thought they could trace something of someone they loved in the stranger who used it, not because the man or woman to whom they gave shelter reminded them of Christ, but because—plain and simple and stupendous fact—he or she was Christ." – Dorothy Day

### 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

Heather Janules

### Introduction of Our Sabbatical Minister, the Rev. Hank Peirce

### Invocation

Heather Janules

### Chalice Lighting

by Dan Lambert (Adapted)

The Rev. Hank Peirce  
Lit by Vicky Coccoluto, Mitteneer

### Carol 237\*

*The First Nowell*

*During this hymn, those who brought gifts for the Mitten Tree are invited to come forward and place them on the tables in front of the Lectern and Pulpit.*

**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.

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

Heather Janules

### Prayer

Hank Peirce

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Kindling of the Light**

*Prelude in Eb minor, J.S. Bach*

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

**Silence****Anthem**

*The Holly and the Ivy, Traditional/arr. J. Kramer* WUS Adult Choir

**Offering**

John Kramer and Heather Janules

This Sunday, we Share the Plate with the **International Institute of New England** whose mission is to “create opportunities for refugees and immigrants to succeed [in New England] through resettlement, education, career advancement and pathways to citizenship.”

Whatever is raised for IINE will be matched, up to \$500, with a donation from the Minister's Discretionary Fund to Team **Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund**, benefiting those affected by the recent tornado in Kentucky.

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**

*Somewhere, Leonard Bernstein*

Andy Papas, Solo

**Recessional**

*Linus and Lucy, Vince Guaraldi*

**Those in the sanctuary are now invited to leave for the back Parking Lot for the Parking Lot Pageant!**

Please bring your orders-of-service with you.

A [lyrics sheet](#) for carols can be found at the back of this order-of-service.

**Carol**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**Carol**

*Jesus Our Brother (vs 1-4; 6)*

**Carol**

*We Three Kings*

**Carol**

*Go Tell it On the Mountain (vs 1-2)*

**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.

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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 and the Rev. Hank Peirce, Ministers · John Kramer, Music Director  
Sam Wilson, Interim Coordinator of Religious Education and the RE Community  
Steve Forcucci, Livestream Coordinator

Ushers and Greeters: Sheila Rudolph-Correia, Sophia Sid, and Kathy Richardson  
The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern  
with an attentive listener. Today's PCA is Donna Reed - 781-626-1785.

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

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.  
Let praises ring: from God they bring goodwill to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wonder is made known,  
when God imparts to human hearts the gift that is our own.  
No ear may hear that coming, but in this worldly din,  
when souls are truly humble, then the dear babe rests within.

## **Jesus, Our Brother**

Jesus, our, brother, kind and good,  
was humbly born in a stable rude,  
and the friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
"I carried his mother uphill and down,  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town;  
I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,  
"I gave him my manger for his bed,  
I gave him hay to pillow his head;  
I," said the cow, all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,  
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,  
he wore my coat on Christmas morn; I  
, " said the sheep with curly horn.

And all the beasts, by some good spell,  
in the stable dark were glad to tell  
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,  
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

## **We Three Kings of Orient Are**

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

(Chorus) O Star of wonder, star of light,  
star, with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us through this perfect night.

Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising, all are raising,  
worship God most high. (Chorus)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Chorus)

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
love forever, ceasing never,  
in our hearts to reign. (Chorus)

## **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

(Chorus) Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. (Chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the baby's birth. (Chorus)