

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, September 18, 2022

September's Theme is "Belonging"

Centering Thought

"The declining health of all our institutions across our nation has led to chaos, division, extremism, and the decline of democracy. The death of religious institutions is a part of that story. God bless the wise church ladies who are keeping some semblance of the old way with their insistence on making a ham and bean supper one of our options on a Friday night instead of mindlessly scrolling through our Facebook feeds until we have reached the depth of ridiculous conspiracy theories on YouTube."

- The Rev. Robin Bartlett

Gathering Music

Kramer

John

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

Stephen Perepeluk

You may also review weekly announcements at www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings

Opening Words

Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting

By Jennifer Gracen

*Hymn 360

Here We Have Gathered

Gray Hymnal

First Reflection

"Following the Rules: Teacher Bubble Blessing"

Including words by C.B. Beal, Charlie Dietrich and Linette Lowe
Brenna Mayer, Sam Wilson and Heather Janules

Celebrating Victoria Ippolito, Ryan Levering, Liz Lintz, Naomi Magnoni, Ryan McDowell, Sarah Milt, Adah Nordan, Celia Oslakovic, Sophia Sid, Riley Simpson, Rebecca Vernaglia

Words for Blessing

Sam: Today we begin a new year of Religious Education not with teaching, but with blessing.

CONGREGATION: We, the congregation, commission these RE Leaders to this task of love and challenges.

Brenna: May your classes be a joy. As you inspire us, so may you too be inspired to dream more

CONGREGATION: to learn more,

Heather: to do more,

CONGREGATION: to become more.

Sam: For it is in giving that we receive

CONGREGATION: And in using our talents that we learn ourselves.

Blessing *The Light Within* John Kramer
As children and teachers leave for Religious Education, the community is invited to sing them on their way!

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.

*At this point, those remaining in the Sanctuary may gather "mask optional."
Those wishing to sit among people wearing masks may join the Choir in the first few rows.*

Prayer Heather Janules

Kindling of the Light *Moderato molto grazioso* by Nathaniel Dett John Kramer
You are welcome to come forward and light a candle in recognition of a joy, sorrow or concern you hold within. Those attending by livestream are invited to light a candle at home. For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence

Hymn 123 *Spirit of Life* Gray Hymnal
Please remain seated.

Second Reflection "Because, Church" Sean Neil-Barron
Rev. Neil-Barron shared this reflection as part of the Sunday Worship Service at the UUA General Assembly this past June.

Anthem *We Are One* by Brian Tate WUS Adult Choir

Third Reflection "The Meaning of Belonging" Heather Janules

Offering

Harris Gibson

This morning, we Share the Plate with **UU Mass Action**, organizing local Unitarian Universalists for engagement with social justice action, in partnership with other faith-based and community organizations.

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

September by Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn

John Kramer

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.

***Hymn 318**

We Would Be One

Gray Hymnal

Benediction

by Erik Walker Wikstrom (Adapted)

Postlude

Autumn by Antonio Vivaldi

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.

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

Flower Dedication: *Today's flowers are dedicated to the memory of long-time member and leader John Russell and the countless like him, throughout the generations, whose commitment, generosity, wisdom and service have given the Winchester Unitarian Society its strength.*

Serving Today

Greeters: Lindy Brown, Clair McNeill.

Ushers: Naomi Delairre, 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 Carol Delaney 781-057-3366

John Kramer, *Director of Music* * Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* * Brenna Mayer, *Coordinator of Children's Religious Education* * Sam Wilson, *Director of Youth and Children's Ministries* *
Harris Gibson and Stephen Perepeluk, *Worship Associates* *
Sean Yun and Jay Kwan, *Livestream Coordinators*

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

Music Notes:

Our Anthem this morning is by the Vancouver based song leader and composer Brian Tate. Brian centers his music on community building and *We Are One* is a wonderful example of this. As we approach the autumnal equinox on Thursday, we celebrate with Vivaldi's iconic work, transcribed for the organ. The offertory comes from a collection of pieces, one for each month from the calendar year, by Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn. For our Kindling music, I wanted to include this gem of a piece by Nathaniel Dett, from his collection *Cinnamon Grove*.