

Welcome to Worship!



The Blessing of the Animals

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, October 16, 2022

October's Theme is "Courage"

Virtual Social Hour is currently on hiatus.

Flower Dedication: *Today's flowers celebrate the earth's animals and our life-giving connections with them.*

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Liz Lintz, Phil Coonley,
Vicky Coccoluto, Naomi Magnoni and Jeremiah

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 781-729-7787

John Kramer, *Director of Music* · Stephen Perepeluk, *Worship Associate* · Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* ·
Brenna Mayer, *Coordinator of Children's Religious Education* ·
Jay Kwan, *Livestream Coordinator*

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

Centering Thought

"The happiness of the bee and the dolphin is to exist.
For [people], it is to know that and to wonder at it."

– Jacques Yves Cousteau

The Animal Parade!

Valse du petit chien by Frédéric Chopin

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.

Ring 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

Invocation

by Ian Riddell

Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting

by Swiftwalker (Abridged and Adapted)

*Hymn #203

All Creatures of the Earth and Sky

Gray Hymnal

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

First Reflection *Animals of the Earth: Our Sacred Role*
Brenna Mayer

Anthem *All God's Critters* by Bill Staines WUS Choir

Remembering Those Who Have Died Heather Janules
You may learn more about the Dog Chapel and Dog Mountain at
www.dogmt.com

Kindling of the Light

Waves Overhead, the Manatee Sings by 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 #15 *The Lone, Wild Bird* Gray Hymnal
Please remain seated.

Offering Stephen Perepeluk

This morning, we Share the Plate with **Northeast Animal Shelter**, whose "no-kill mission is to save as many adoptable dogs and cats as [they] can and place them in loving forever homes."

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically.
Text (781) 230-6690 or visit <https://www.winchester.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 *Duetto buffo di due gatti* by Gioachino Rossini
Sarah Milt and Kirsten Hart

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.

Blessing

When invited to do so, please place your hand on your animal - or on your heart - and recite the words of blessing together:

We give thanks for you, a gift from the Spirit of Life
May your belly never feel empty
May you only know human hands in kindness
And may you live a long and happy life with us
We bless you as you are a blessing to this world

***Hymn #207** *Earth Was Given as a Garden* Gray Hymnal

Benediction Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Postlude *Porcupine Rag* by John Kramer

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.