

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, October 9, 2022

October's Theme is "Courage"

Centering Thought

"Curiosity is the essential basis of education, and if you tell me that curiosity killed the cat, I will simply answer you that the cat died with nobility." - Arnold Edinborough

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

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

Invocation

By Victoria Weinstein (Adapted)

Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting

By Audette Fulbright Fulson

Peter McEntee

*Hymn # 44

We Sing of Golden Mornings

Gray Hymnal

First Reflection

Muhammad and the Cat: A Parable

Brenna Mayer, Coordinator of Children's Religious Education

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.*

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Prayer

Heather Janules

Kindling of the Light

Olhos de Gato (Eyes of the Cat) by Carla Bley

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 # 194

Faith is a Forest

Gray Hymnal

Please remain seated.

Reading

“Daniel in the Lions Den” by Christopher Buice (Adapted)

Peter McEntee

Anthem

Prayer of the Cat by Igor Davies

WUS Adult Choir

Second Reflection

“The Nine Lives of Unitarian Universalism”

Heather Janules

An expanded reflection based on the presentation “Unitarian Universalist History...in Cat Memes” by Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education at the UU Church of Columbia, Missouri, with assistance by many of the Catz and Clergy on the “Clergy with Cats” Facebook Group

Offering

Heather Janules

This morning, we Share the Plate with the **Winchester Interfaith Resettlement Partnership**, the coalition of local faith communities providing “volunteers, funds, and other support to organizations in our town and towns nearby that...accept refugees through Ascentria [Care Alliance.]”

In the wake of Hurricane Ian, what we give to WIRP will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500, with a donation to the **UUA Disaster Relief Fund** from the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. The Disaster Relief Fund helps, “congregations care for their buildings and the needs of their members, as well as supporting people in the community, especially those who may not be eligible for other grant programs.”

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

The Monk and His Cat by Samuel Barber

Brendan Buckley

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 # 126** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Gray Hymnal

Benediction Attributed to John Murray

Postlude *Pussy Cat Dues* by Charles Mingus Tyson Kamikawa, Sax;
Steve Forcucci, guitar

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.

Virtual Social Hour is currently on hiatus.

Flower Dedication: *Today's altar flowers are dedicated to those who have courageously fought for religious freedom throughout the centuries...and to the cats in our lives...*

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Stephen Perepeluk and Donna Reed

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern with an attentive listener. Today's PCA is Kim Foley 339-227-0216

John Kramer, *Director of Music* ✨ Peter McEntee, *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.

Music Notes:

There is a surprising amount of music written about cats. The Kindling music is by jazz legend Carla Bley in the early 1970's. ✦ The anthem is from Ivor Davies' *Prayers from the Ark*, a set of six pieces based on the poetry of Carmen Bernos De Gastzold. ✦ Samuel Barber gives us a picture of a Monk and his Cat - the 8th song in his collection of *Hermit Songs*. These poems were written by an anonymous Irish monk who lived sometime between the 8th and 13th century. The poems were translated by W.H. Auden. ✦ Jazz bassist and composer Charles Mingus, who created the postlude, was a great lover of cats, including his own cat Nightlife.