

## 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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**Flower Dedication:** *This Sunday's altar flowers are dedicated in gratitude to our choirs, especially the Adult Choir for their beautiful gifts to us today!*

### Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Claire McNeill, Kim Foley,  
and Barbara Keyes

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 @ 781 507 3366

John Kramer, *Director of Music* · Stephen Perepeluk and Harris Gibson, *Worship Associates* · Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* · Brenna Mayer, *Coordinator of Children's Religious Education* · Sean Yun, *Livestream Coordinator*

### WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members

Vicky Coccoluto, Ivan Correia, Terry Currier, Terrill Levering (Clerk,) Gordy McIntosh (Co-Chair,) Claire McNeill, Fritzie Nace (Co-Chair,) Martin Newhouse, Brad Steele (Treasurer,) Marcy Tompson and George "Woody" Wood

Contact your Standing Committee via [SC@winchesteruu.org](mailto:SC@winchesteruu.org)

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

## Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 11, 2022

**December's Theme is "Wonder"**

### Centering Thought

"In the dark I rest,  
unready for the light which dawns  
day after day,  
eager to be shared.  
Black silk, shelter me.  
I need  
more of the night before I open  
eyes and heart  
to illumination. I must still  
grow in the dark like a root  
not ready, not ready at all."  
— Denise Levertov

### Gathering Music

*Prelude: Night*

Nathaniel Dett  
John Kramer

### Invitation to Greeting

The Rev. Heather Janules

*In person attendees: Note that 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. Livestreamers: Please let us know who you are and what's on your mind by sending an email to [checkingin@winchesteruu.org](mailto:checkingin@winchesteruu.org)*

**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](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings)

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Invocation** By Margaret Keip Heather Janules

**Chalice Lighting** By Gordon McKeemon (Adapted)  
*We kindle the Advent Candle this Sunday in celebration of Peace.*

**\*Hymn #49** *Stillness Reigns* Gray Hymnal

**First Reflection** *Owl Moon*, by Jane Yolen Brenna Mayer

**Blessing: Hymn #409** *Sleep, My Child* Gray Hymnal

*As children and teachers leave for Religious Education, the community is invited to sing them on their way!*

*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.*

**Musical Meditation** *Der Abend* (The Evening) Johannes Brahms  
WUS Soloists

**Prayer** Heather Janules

**Kindling of the Light** *Claire de Lune*, Claude Debussy  
*For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.*

**Silence**

**Hymn #1055** *How Sweet the Darkness* Teal Hymnal  
*Please remain seated*

**Reading** *Sweet Darkness*, David Whyte Harris Gibson

**Anthem** *Stars*, Ēriks Ešenvalds WUS Adult Choir

**Offering** Harris Gibson

This morning, we share our offering gifts with the Massachusetts Chapter of the **International Dark-Sky Association**, "working to protect the night skies for present and future generations" from light pollution. Your Social Action and Outreach Committee encourages you to learn more at <https://www.darksky.org/>

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** *Round Midnight*, Thelonius Monk  
Tyson Kamikawa, Saxophone

**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 #55** *Dark of Winter* Gray Hymnal

**Benediction**  
Nighttime Prayer from the Anglican Church of New Zealand (Adapted)

**Postlude** *Nocturne #14 in F# minor*, Frédéric Chopin

### Music Notes:

Perhaps there was never a time when there wasn't music that invoked the night, held the miracle of the stars, or perhaps soothed our fright. Today we witness that special refraction of the night through music.

The *Prelude: Night* is the opening piece from Nathaniel Dett's collection *In the Bottoms* (1913). It is a very satisfying iteration of the mystery of the night, with a pause for some dance and celebration. ♦ Our vocal soloists, Cheryl Medieros- Nancarrow, Kirsten Hart, Brendan Buckley, and Rob Woodin sing *Der Abend* by the great German composer Johannes Brahms (1864). ♦ The French composer Claude Debussy gives us his impression of the moonlight (*Claire de Lune*- 1905). The piece was inspired by a poem by Paul Verlaine. ♦ And we continue by the gorgeous *Stars*, setting a poem by Sara Teasdale (2011). Here, Latvian composer Ešņvalds invokes the stars through tuned wine glasses. Special thanks to Hannah McWhan and Caroline Bronski for their help with these. ♦ We continue with the classic jazz tune *Round Midnight* by Thelonius Monk, a perfect invocation of midnight if there ever was one (1943). ♦ And we conclude with one of Chopin's many *Nocturnes* (1841).

#### Der Abend, by Friedrich Schiller

Let it sink, radiant God- the fields thirst  
for refreshing dew; the people languish,  
the steeds are weary- let the chariot sink down!

Behold the one who beckons you, sweetly smiling, from the sea's  
crystalline wave!  
Does your heart recognize her?  
Faster fly the steeds; Thetys, the divine one, beckons.

The driver leaps quickly from the chariot into her arms.  
Cupid seizes the reins;

the steeds stand still and drink at the cooling stream.

Ascending in the sky with quiet steps  
comes the fragrant night; sweet love follows.  
Rest and love! Phoebus, the loving one, rests.  
*translation by Paine/Jeffers (adapt. [Drew Collins](#))*

#### Stars, by Sara Teasdale

Alone in the night  
On a dark hill  
With pines around me  
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars  
Over my head  
White and topaz  
And misty red;

Myriads with beating  
Hearts of fire  
The aeons  
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven  
Like a great hill  
I watch them marching  
Stately and still.

And I know that I  
Am honored to be  
Witness  
Of so much majesty.