

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, January 22, 2023
January's Theme is "Finding Our Center"

Centering Thought

"Our theology locates healing and wholeness in relationship...Our tradition locates hope for addressing social problems not in the suppression of basic sinfulness but in being open to diverse perspectives and building connections. Another source of our religious movement is the Protestant Reformation's response to the corruption of a church that sold the promise of heaven for a price. Today we face the parallel corruption in which power, rather than heaven, is sold to those who meet the price."

- From "Our Democracy Uncorrupted," the 2019 Unitarian Universalist Association Statement of Conscience

Hospitality Note: We may open the windows during worship to increase air circulation. You may wish to have your coat handy or choose a seat close to the center of the Sanctuary to remain warm.

Gathering Music

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

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

Ivan Correia

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

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Invocation

By Gretchen Haley

Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting

By the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr (Adapted)

*Hymn #353

Golden Breaks the Dawn

Gray Hymnal

First Reflection

Lousy Dessert

Brenna Mayer

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.

Meditation

"Prayer Ballot" by Luke Stevens-Royer

Kindling of the Light

Missing Moon, Tan Dun

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

Visual Meditation

"Desmond Meade: Voting is 'Sacred'"

Anthem

I Believe, Mark A. Miller

WUS Adult Choir

Second Reflection “Fighting for the Fifth Principle” Heather Janules

Offering Ivan Correia

This morning, we share our gifts with the **MA League of Women Voters Citizen Education Fund**. The Fund promotes voter registration, education, engagement, and protection activities and educates and engages citizens through public conversations on timely and important issues.

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 *Floating Clouds*, Tan Dun

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 # 131** *Love Will Guide Us* Gray Hymnal

Benediction “Election Promises” by Mark Belletini

Postlude *New Beginnings* 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.

Flower Dedication: Today’s flowers are dedicated to all those who have fought - and continue to fight - for the right of all to participate in free and fair elections.

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Susan Woodward and Kim Foley

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* · Ivan Correia, *Worship Associate* · Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* · Brenna Mayer, *Religious Education Coordinator* · Jay Kwan, *Livestream Coordinator*

WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members

Vicky Cocoluto, 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**

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:

The anthem this morning is a setting of an anonymous Jewish poem:
“I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining. I believe in love even
when I don’t feel it. I believe in God even when God is silent.” ♦ The

Kindling and Offertory music is shared in celebration of Lunar New
Year. Both come from Tan Dun’s *8 Memories in Watercolor*, which he
wrote when he was leaving Hunan to study at the Central

Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He wrote them at a time when he
was longing for folksongs and other memories of his childhood. ♦ The
Postlude is a sneak peak at a new piece we will be performing at Jazz
in the Sanctuary next Friday night. It’s nice for solo piano, but don’t
miss the quintet version.