

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, January 29, 2023

January's Theme is "Finding Your Center"

Centering Thought

"Instead of asking ourselves, 'How can I find security and happiness?' we could ask ourselves, 'Can I touch the center of my pain? Can I sit with suffering, both yours and mine, without trying to make it go away? Can I stay present to the ache of loss or disgrace -- disappointment in all its many forms -- and let it open me?'"

- Pema Chodron

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

Marcy Tompson

You may also review weekly announcements at

www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings

Invocation

By Jason Cook

Heather Janules

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Chalice Lighting By Frances Koziar (Abridged) Stephen Perepeluk
Lit by Riley Simpson

Presentation and Blessing to Neighboring Faiths Participants

Brenna Mayer and Heather Janules

Unison Blessing: "We wish you well on your journey. May your exploration bring you greater insight, understanding, and grace."

***Hymn # 188** *Come, Come Whoever You Are* Gray Hymnal

First Reflection *A Lion Comes to Worship*

Heather Janules and 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.

Prayer

Heather Janules

Kindling of the Light *Schmücke Dich, O Liebe Seele, J.S. Bach*
For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence

John Kramer, *Director of Music* • Marcy Tompson and Stephen Perepeluk, *Worship Associates* • Heather Janules, Parish Minister • Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education Coordinator* • 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

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 Kindling music and the Postlude both refer to our Neighboring Faiths. The Kindling comes from the Christians tradition and is a setting of a hymn melody “Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness”. ♦ The Postlude is the final of a set of five pieces that imagines scenes from the Hebrew bible. This movement has been described as, “a complex war among all the conflicting motives, [which] ends with the eternity of the universe, unswayed by the passions and hatred which embroiled the world.” ♦ Elise Witt wrote *Open the Window* in 1997, inspired by the Georgian Sea Island song *Heist the Window, Noah*. In it, she names a variety of situations where we need to, “open the window and let the dove fly in.” ♦ The Offertory is the beautiful Florence Price setting of the Langston Hughes song, *We Have Tomorrow*.