

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, February 26, 2023

February's Theme is Love

Centering Thought

"Everything we need the most
for our collective soul to make it through this alive
requires great urgency and abundant patience.

Whenever possible,
take a breath,
and find again the rhythms of life
best for growing our souls."

-Rev. M Jade Kaiser

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

Ivan Correia

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 Rev. M Jade Kaiser The Rev. Laura Solomon

Chalice Lighting

By Melanie Davis

***Hymn #299** *Make Channels for the Streams of Love* Gray Hymnal

First Reflection

Body Blessing

The Rev. Laura Solomon

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

Kindling of the Light

Lotus Blossom, Billy Strayhorn

For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence

*Hymn #1031

Filled with Loving Kindness

Teal Hymnal

Please remain seated

Reading “To The People Who Have Mistaken Freedom for Liberation”
by Rev. Theresa Ninan Soto

Anthem *Show Us How to Love*, Mark Miller WUS Adult Choir

Second Reflection “Queerly Joyful and Joyfully Queer”
The Rev. Laura Solomon

Offering Ivan Correia

This morning, we share our gifts with **Fenway Health**, a local healthcare clinic. They articulate their mission as “Fenway Health advocates for and delivers innovative, equitable, accessible health care, supportive services, and transformative research and education. We center LGBTQIA+ people, BIPOC individuals, and other underserved communities to enable our local, national, and global neighbors to flourish.”

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 *Time is Your Own* John Kramer

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 By Rev. Laura Solomon

Postlude *The Place Where the Rainbow Ends* Nathaniel Dett

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: The altar flowers celebrate the gift that is each and every one of us. May we always find the courage to bloom wherever we are planted!

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Jennifer Edwards, Matthew Bronski,
Erin Graham 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* ·
The Rev. Laura Solomon, *Guest Minister* · Sean Yun and
Isaac Kamikawa, *Livestream Coordinators*

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:

We cap off this month of February with one more tribute to its theme of Love. Mark Miller sets text by Lindy Thompson in this morning's beautiful anthem, *Show Us How to Love*. ♦ As we celebrate things "joyfully queer" it's important to note that both Mark Miller and Billy Strayhorn, whose music we hear at the Kindling, are (or were) gay men. ♦ For the images from #UULent featured during the offertory, I offer my own tune from last year's *Songs of Hope and Resilience* concert as an observation of Wednesday's theme of Resilience. ♦ And we close with an abundantly joyful piece by the great African-American composer Nathaniel Dett.