

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, March 26, 2023

March's Theme is "Vulnerability"

Centering Thought

"Every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight, that leaves me like a needle in the haystack of light. It was what I was born for – to look, to listen, to lose myself inside this soft world – to instruct myself over and over in joy, and acclamation..."
– Mary Oliver

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

Heather Janules

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

Invocation

By Michael Leduc (Adapted) Marcy Tompson

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Chalice Lighting

By Maureen Killoran (Abridged)

Lit by Alice Levering

*Hymn #21

For the Beauty of the Earth

Gray Hymnal

First Reflection

What Do You Notice?

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

"Psalm 23 for This Moment" by Kevin Tarsa

Kindling of the Light

And the moon descends on the temple that was Claude Debussy
For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence

Hymn #90 *From All the Fret and Fever of the Day* Gray Hymnal
Please remain seated

Meditation

"Small Kindnesses" by Danusha Laméris

Anthem *Never an End*, Charles Repper WUS Adult Choir

Second Reflection

“Some Reflections on Spirituality from Psychology 101”

Marcy Tompson

Offering

Heather Janules

This morning, we Share the Plate with the **Women's Lunch Place**, whose mission is to "[inspire] hope and [support] the development of self-sustaining skills for women experiencing hunger, homelessness, and poverty. We create a safe, welcoming day shelter community in which we respect the dignity of our guests. We build trusting relationships to provide individualized, integrated services focused on nutrition, health, housing, and economic empowerment."

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically. **Text (781) 230-6690** or visit www.tinyurl.com/wusgiveonline 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 *Reflections*, Thelonius Monk

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 #331** *Life is the Greatest Gift of All* Gray Hymnal

Benediction By Mary Harrington

Postlude *Spring*, Antonio Vivaldi

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 chancel flowers celebrate the arrival of Spring!*

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Stephen Perepeluk, Liz Lintz

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* · The Rev. Heather Janules, *Worship Associate* · Marcy Tompson, *Worship Leader* · Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education Coordinator* · 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:

The anthem this morning sets a text by Sophia Lyons Fahs: “We pause in reverence before the wonder of life, the wonder of this moment, the wonder of being together, so close yet so apart– each hidden in his own secret chamber, each listening, each trying to speak. Yet none fully understanding, none fully understood. We pause in reverence before all intangible things – that eyes see not, nor ears can detect – that hands can never touch – that space cannot hold, and time cannot measure. There is never an end to our yearning to know the unknown after all our labor at learning. There is never an end to our trying the untried after all our failures in striving. Fling wide the windows, the bright beams of morning are warm!” ♦ For the Kindling music, I chose a selection from Debussy’s *Images* – musical depictions of things for us to observe. Here it is a temple in the moonlight. Legendary jazz composer and pianist gives us *Reflections* for the Offertory, and we close with a tribute to spring. Notice the bird song and burbling brook in Vivaldi’s music.