

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · April 2nd, 2023

April's Theme is "Resistance"

Centering Thought

*"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.
Music is the soil in which the spirit lives, thinks and invents."*

– Ludwig van Beethoven

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 *Bagatelle No. 1 in G minor, Op. 119* Beethoven
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 Stephen Perepeluk
You may also review weekly announcements at www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings

Responsive Invocation #441 "To Worship" by Jacob Trapp
Gray Hymnal; Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting By Elandria Williams (Abridged)
Lit by Dirck Stryker, Music Committee Chair

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

***Hymn #39** *Bring, O Morn, Thy Music* Gray Hymnal

Musical Invocation *Ode to Joy*, Ludwig Van Beethoven
WUS Children's Chorale; Kirsten Hart, Director

First Reflection *Listening to Music* John Kramer

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 *Sonata in E minor, No. 27, Mvt. 2* Beethoven
For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence – Song *Ewig Dein* Beethoven

E - ver yours, e - ver yours, yours, e - ver yours, yours,
7
e - ver, e - ver e - ver yours.

Please remain seated

Too holy to know pain!
No eye could weep
for this heavenly spirit, when homeward turning.

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.

Many thanks to the Sue Swap fund for making this special music possible.

Music Notes:

We are thrilled to present to you this celebration of Beethoven’s music in recognition of his 253rd birthday. We had intended to present this program to you three years ago for his 250th birthday, but the world had other plans.

Beethoven was a child of the Enlightenment in many of the same ways that Unitarian-Universalism is. We share the same values of intellectual freedom and exploration, love of nature, varying degrees of skepticism around God, and a passion for music, art, and poetry.

The *Eligischer Gesang* was composed in 1814 in honor of the death of the philosopher and poet Johann Georg Jacobi. Written for string quartet and chorus, it sets a text from the poem “Bey der Kunde von Jacobi’s Tod”, written by Johann Haug. It will be sung in German - the English translation follows:

Life gently touched thee,
And passed as softly.

The *Choral Fantasy* was written in 1808 and is the precursor to Beethoven’s ninth symphony. In fact, you will recognize a similarity between the two main themes – and it should be great fun to follow this work with the *Ode to Joy* theme that comprises Hymn #39. The *Choral Fantasy* is composed for piano, soloists, chorus, and orchestra. I have abridged the piano solo significantly for the purposes of this service. The text celebrates the power of music and art in our lives. It will be sung in German.

Graceful, charming and sweet is the sound
Of our life's harmonies,
and from a sense of beauty arise
Flowers which eternally bloom.
Peace and joy advance in perfect concord,
like the changing play of the waves.
All that was harsh and hostile,
has turned into sublime delight.

When music's enchantment reigns,
speaking of the sacred word,
Magnificence takes form,
The night and the tempest turns to light:
Outer peace and inner bliss
Reign o'er the fortunate ones.
All art in the spring's sun
Lets light flow from both.

Greatness, once it has pierced the heart,
Then blooms anew in all its beauty.
Once one's being has taken flight,
A choir of spirits resounds in response.
Accept then, you beautiful souls,
Joyously the gifts of high art.

When love and strength are united,
Divine grace is bestowed upon Man.

We conclude with the Hallelujah from Beethoven's Oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives*. Completed in 1803 and revised in 1811, this work is known for its humanist portrayal of the Christ passion story. The Hallelujah – sung in English translation- is the final movement of this work. I give you two translations of the text, a more literal one and the one that the choir will sing.

Glorious worlds above us spire,
Happy Seraphs sing your joys.
Man, join in the holy choir,
Hail the great Redeemer's praise.

Hallelujah unto God's almighty Son.
Praise the Lord, ye bright angelic choir,
In holy songs of joy.
Man, proclaim his grace and glory, Hallelujah!

Many thanks to the choir, our fabulous soloists Cheryl Medeiros-Nancarrow, Kirsten Hart, Brendan Buckley, Rob Woodin, and our guest musicians:

Violins: Betsy Hinkle, Justus Ross, Olga Patramanskaya, Beth Welty
Violas: Julia Chen, Noralee Walker
Cellos: Barna Károly, Michael Curry
Double Bass: Scot Fitzsimmons
Flute: Amber Wildgoose
Oboe: Charlyn Bethel
Clarinet: Diane Heffner
Horn: Jeremy Ronkin
Bassoon: Stephanie Busby