

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 10, 2023

December's Theme is "Mystery"

Livestream Attendees: To notify our Tech Deck of a broadcast issue, email checkingin@winchesteruu.org or call the WUS Office - 781.729.0949

Centering Thought

"There always were two ways to live in a world that is often dark and full of tears. We can curse the darkness or we can light a light, and as the Chassidim say, a little light drives out much darkness. May we all help light up the world." –Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

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

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

Call to Worship *Ocho Kandelikas*, Flory Jagoda

Combined WUS Choirs

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Chalice Lighting and Kindling the Advent Candle

Advent Candle words by Rosemary Morrison

Chalice Lighting words by Lorenzo Bassman;

Lit by Alice Levering

***Song** *Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah*

Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah, come light the menorah
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the horah
Gather 'round the table, we'll give you a treat
Dreidels to play with and latkes to eat.

And while we are playing the candles are burning low
One for each night they shed a sweet
Light to remind us of days long ago
One for each night they shed a sweet
Light to remind us of days long ago.

First Reflection *Unexpected Light*

Brenna Mayer

Song *Candlelight*, The Maccabeats WUS Youth Choir

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.

Meditation Including words by Prentis Hemphill

Kindling of the Light *Make Peace*, Brad Meldau

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

Silence

Hymn #392

Hineh Ma Tov

Gray Hymnal

Please remain seated

Four Hanukkah Songs

David Ludwig
WUS Adult Choir

- I. Mi Y'maleil
- II. Al Hanisim
- III. Candle Blessings
- IV. Maoz Tzur

Offering

Heather Janules

This morning, we share our gifts with the **House of Peace**, whose mission is “to provide physical and spiritual shelter to victims of war in a small healing community in companionship with adults with special needs, and to provide education for peace and moral awakening.”

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.

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Joan and Pete Baldwin,
Kim Foley and Alison Kirchgasser

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
or at the pew closest to the candle table
immediately after the service

John Kramer, *Director of Music* ◦ The Rev. Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* ◦ Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education Coordinator* ◦ Isaac Kamikawa, *Livestream Coordinator*

WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members

Dennis Brett, Vicky Coccoluto, Chuck Khuen, Liz Lintz (Clerk,) Gordy McIntosh, Claire McNeill, Fritzie Nace, Martin Newhouse, Stephen Perepeluk, Brad Steele (Treasurer) and Marcy Tompson

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:

Remembering that the Jewish calendar day begins at sunset, last night marked the start of the third day of Hanukkah. So while we may not actually have latkes to eat, it is a good time to celebrate with Hanukkah music. The service begins with a few favorites; the Flory Jagoda song *Ocho Kandelikas* written in Ladino, a hybrid of Hebrew and Spanish; and *Candlelight* by the Maccabeats, a Jewish vocal group whose take on the Taio Cruz hit song *Dynamite* is just wonderful. The centerpiece of the service is David Ludwig's Four Hanukkah Songs. This is part of a larger Hanukkah cantata first performed in 2007 by the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia for whom it was composed.

The songs are traditional Hanukkah songs, arranged in exquisite form to be performed by the choir. They tell the story of Hanukkah, about the hero Judas Maccabee who saved the Jewish people from the oppression of the Syrian Greeks. They tell of the miracle and redemption made possible by God. And they tell of the strength that humans can find to persevere over adversity. We will light the Menorah after the third movement – *Candle Blessings*. It should be noted that the candles are ritually lit at sundown and usually at home, so we are taking some liberties in bringing this practice into our sanctuary so that we can share this together.

Guest Musicians:

Betsy Hinkle, Jessica Amidon: violins;
Elisabeth Westner, viola; Shay Rudolph, cello.

Special thanks to the Sue Swap Music Fund
for making this morning's music possible.