

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 22

December's Theme is "Presence"

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

"Every moment of light and dark is a miracle."
– Walt Whitman

Gathering Music

John Kramer

Invitation to Greeting

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

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

Invocation "Celebrating the Darkness" adapted from Jo VonRue

Chalice Lighting "Dark and Light" by Frances Koziar Lit by Abby McVey

***Hymn #235** *Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly* Gray Hymnal

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

First Reflection

"Fox Steals the Dark"

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.

Meditation

"A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark"

by Jan Richardson

Kindling of the Light*"Moonlight Sonata"*, Ludwig van Beethoven

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

Silence**Centering Hymn #55***Dark of Winter*

Gray Hymnal

*Please remain seated***Reading**

"Dark and Light, Light and Dark?" by Jacqui James

Anthem*Sure on this Shining Night*, Samuel Barber

WUS Choir

Second Reflection

"Embracing Dark, Embracing Light"

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

Offering

Our share-the-plate offering this month is shared with **Bridge Over Troubled Waters**, an organization which provides effective and innovative services to runaway, homeless and high-risk youth, helps youth avoid a lifetime of dependency on social services, guides youth towards self-sufficiency, and enables youth to transform their lives and build fulfilling, meaningful futures.

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically.

Text GIVE to (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 *There Will be Stars*, Laura Nevitt Cailin Smith, Solo

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 #244** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* Gray Hymnal

Benediction

Postlude *Night Dreamer*, Wayne Shorter

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.

Serving Today

Ushers: Marilyn Wilson, Terry Currier

Greeters: Gordy & Mary McIntosh

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern with an attentive listener.

Today's PCA is Marilyn Wilson 781-572-8834

Your PCA will be sitting at the pew closest to the candle table immediately after the service.

John Kramer, *Music Director* ♦ Ivan Correia, *Worship Associate* ♦

Jason Tran, *Livestream Coordinator*

WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members

John Keller, Chuck Khuen, Ginger Hanson (Clerk),

Gordy McIntosh (Chair), Claire McNeill, Fritzie Nace,

Martin Newhouse (Vice Chair), Sheila Puffer, Brad Steele (Treasurer),

Joan Baldwin (Assistant Treasurer), and Marcy Tompson.

Contact your Standing Committee via SC@winchesteruu.org.

Music Notes

We have music inspired by the night on one of the shortest days of the year. The choir presents American composer Samuel Barber's *Sure on this Shining Night*, setting a text taken from the James Agee poem, "Descriptions of Elysium". The Offertory is a setting of the Sara Teasdale poem by local composer Laura Nevitt.