

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, November 28th, 2021

November's Theme is "Holding History"

Centering Thought

"Nature is full of patterns and we humans love finding them, creating them, repeating them. This is the core of language, math, music, and even ritual, which is the repetition of words or actions deemed worthy of representing something bigger than ourselves...All over the world and across time, these are all a form of art, an elaborate performance or a secret poem, all vital in their ability to help us face the nature of time and change, life and death, and everything else we cannot control."

— Sasha Sagan, *For Small Creatures Such as We: Rituals for Finding Meaning in Our Unlikely World*

Gathering Music

Barry Singer

Invitation to Greeting

The Rev. Heather Janules

Note that during this time, 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.

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

Marcy Tompson

Responsive Invocation

by Leslie Takahashi

Heather Janules

When invited to do so, please respond with "We are Waiting."

First Reflection and Lighting the Advent Candle

Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting

Words of Dedication (Abridged and Adapted) by Fr. Austin Fleming

Hymn #226 *

People, Look East

Prayer

Kindling of the Light

Gymnopedie #2, Erik Satie

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

Silence

Reading

From "The Uses of Ritual" by Peter McEntee, WUS Member

Marcy Tompson

Second Reflection

"Touchstones and Transitions: Thoughts on Ritual"

Heather Janules

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Offering

Marcy Tompson

This morning, we share our gifts with the **Tanner Closet**. This program is part of Woburn High School. Through community partnerships, this student-run program provides food and supplies, emergency support and the makings for festive holiday and prom celebrations to student peers in need. Recipients are anonymous.

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

Not While I'm Around, Stephen Sondheim

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.

Benediction

Heather Janules

Postlude

O Waly Waly (The Water is Wide), traditional folk, arr. Jeremy Yowell

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.

Livestreaming attendees are welcome to join Virtual Social Hour
by logging on to www.tinyurl.com/WUSworship

Serving Today

The Rev. Heather Janules, Minister · Marcy Tompson, Worship Associate
Sean Yun, Livestream Coordinator · Guest Musician, Barry Singer, Piano

Ushers and Greeters: Joan Baldwin, Pete Baldwin, Claire McNeil, Maggie Russell

As part of our commitment to racial justice, each worship service includes wisdom or an artistic gift from people or communities-of-color.