

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December, 5th, 2021
December's Theme is "Opening to Joy"

Centering Thought

"The best views are seldom at the very beginning of a path. If that was not the case, there would be no reason for the path. The spiritual path is a journey...It is ultimately a journey to a deeper sense of self, a journey inward... There will be times when we feel lost or unsure of what comes next. There will be times when we grow weary of only having questions and feeling great need for answers we can rest on. Know that this is an unavoidable part of any significant journey." — The Rev. Walter LaFlore

Gathering Music

John Kramer

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

Invocation

by enfleshed (<https://enfleshed.com/>; Abridged)

Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting and Lighting the Advent Candle

Chalice Lighting Dedication by Rebekah Savage

Hymn #55

Dark of Winter

Meditation

Kindling of the Light

Candle Blessings, Traditional Hebrew Song

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

Silence

Anthem

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

First Reflection

"Journeying Towards Spiritual Wholeness"

Heather Janules

Offering

Marcy Tompson

This morning, we share our gifts with the Mystic Valley chapter of the **NAACP**, whose mission is to "secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons."

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

Advent, Emma Lou Diemer

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Those in the sanctuary are now invited to leave for the back yard
of the WUS building for the All Community Benediction.**

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.

Second Reflection "The Advent Spiral" Sam Wilson, Heather Janules and John Kramer

Song:

We are walking Advent Spiral
We are walking Advent Spiral
We are walking Advent Spiral
Walking to the light

Benediction by Eric Williams Heather Janules

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 · John Kramer, Director of Music
Sam Wilson, Director of Youth Ministry and Interim Coordinator of Religious Education
Alex Boskovic, Livestream Coordinator

Ushers and Greeters: Sheila Rudolph-Correia, Sophia Sid

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern
with an attentive listener. Today's PCA is Donna Reed - 781-626-1785

Music Notes

For our Kindling of the Light this morning, I will be playing an instrumental version of a traditional Hanukkah song used for blessing the candles during the lighting of the menorah. ♦ The Offertory is from Emma Lou Diemer's *Seasonal Psalms* and is based on the tune *Psalm 42* by Claude Goudimel.

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