

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 26th, 2021

December's Theme is "Opening to Joy"

Centering Thought

"Pleasure reminds us to enjoy being alive and on purpose... Pleasure—embodied, connected pleasure—is one of the ways we know when we are free. That we are always free. That we always have the power to co-create the world. Pleasure helps us move through the times that are unfair, through grief and loneliness, through the terror of genocide, or days when the demands are just overwhelming...Pleasure reminds us that even in the dark, we are alive.... Pleasure is the point. Feeling good is not frivolous, it is freedom."

- adrienne maree brown

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 and Chalice Lighting

Chalice Lighting words by Lisa Doege (Adapted)

Heather Janules

Hymn 350*

The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time

Meditation

by Kate Walker (Adapted)

Heather Janules

Kindling of the Light

Home, Andrew York

Steve Forcucci

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

Silence

Hymn 391

Voice Still and Small

Please remain seated

Reading

By Forrest Church, From *Bringing God Home: A Spiritual Guidebook for the Journey of Your Life*

Marcy Tompson

First Reflection

"Taking Stock, Creating Space"

Heather Janules

Offering

Marcy Tompson and Heather Janules

This Sunday, we Share the Plate with the **Minister's Discretionary Fund** providing resources to individuals and households in need, within and beyond the WUS congregation. This Fall, the Fund was used to match Share the Plate funds, benefitting Winchester A Better Chance and the Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund.

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

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

Improvisation, Dan Hermes

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

by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Adapted)

Postlude

Allegro Moderato, Edvard Grieg

Eli Forcucci

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
Steve Forcucci, Livestream Coordinator
Special thanks to Eli Forcucci for accompanying the hymns.

Ushers and Greeters: Maggie Russell, Fritzie Nace

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.

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