Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, January 16th, 2022 January's Theme is "Living with Intention"

Centering Thought

From our Unitarian Universalist Association comes this definition:
"Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, abilities, sexual orientation background/identities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world."

Gathering Music John Kramer

Invitation to Greeting

Rev. Hank Peirce

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

Rev. Hank Peirce

Invocation Rev. Hank Peirce

Chalice Lighting Words from Bernice King,

Claire McNeill

Daughter of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

First Reading/Reflection Introduction and video clip, portion of

Liz Scott

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last speech

Prayer by Rev. Paul S. Sawyer Rev. Hank Peirce

Kindling of the Light

As His Own Soul, Nathaniel Dett

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

Silence

Anthem Hymn to Freedom, Oscar Peterson WUS Adult Choir

Second Reading/ Reflection Religious Professional of Color Avatar,

Gloria Legvold

from Widening the Circle of Concern

Offering Rev. Hank Peirce

This morning, we share our gifts with The **Boston Ujima Project**, a community-led organization with a mission of growing a people's economy in Greater Boston, one that is controlled by the community with neighbors, workers, business owners, and investors all working together on a shared vision of collective work and responsibility.

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 Hold Fast to Dreams, Florence Price John Kramer

Brendan Buckley, tenor

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.

Third Reading/Reflection Where are we no and what's next? Patty Shepard

*Hymn #149 Lift Every Voice and Sing (Black National Anthem)

By James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson

Historical Introduction by Claire McNeill

Benediction by Gandhi Rev. Hank Peirce

Postlude Great Day, Adolphus Hailstork John Kramer

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

Rev. Hank Peirce, Minister · Racial Justice Planning Group, Preachers John Kramer, Director of Music · Sean Yun, Livestream Coordinator

<u>Ushers and Greeters</u>: Robin Wolf, Gordy McIntosh, Sophia Sid
The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern
with an attentive listener. Today's <u>PCA</u> is Kim Foley – 339-227-0216

^{*}Please rise in body or in spirit

Music Notes

We offer works by musicians from the African diaspora today in special recognition of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. • Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943) was born in Canada, but attended Oberlin College and spent his professional career in the U.S. The Kindling music comes from his collection 8 Bible Vignettes which was completed in 1943, and the last music he was to compose. • The great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson (1925-2007), also Canadian, was not known as a composer, but did write Hymn to Freedom in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Words were later added by Henrietta Hamilton. The choral arrangement is my own. • Florence Price (1887-1953) was born in Little Rock Arkansas, attended the New England Conservatory here in Boston and established her career mostly in Chicago. Hold Fast to Dreams is a setting of the poem by Langston Hughes. Price was introduced to Hughes through her student and friend Margaret Bonds. • We conclude with one on my favorites, an organ setting of the spiritual Great Day. Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) still teaches at Old Dominion University in Virginia. For a brief time, he worked as a musician at a UU church.

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

Lift Every Voice and Sing (Black National Anthem)
Written by the brothers, James Weldon Johnson, and J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading out path thru the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.