

A Requiem for George Floyd

A special service of witness

Winchester Unitarian Society

Wednesday, May 25th 2022

7:30 PM

Centering Thought

“America is a great country, but after so many years of discrimination, I can only hope that we will continue the progress which we have made during this past year. We are at a turning point, I believe, and all of us must do whatever we can to make America a better place.” -Henry Mollicone

Call to Worship

Troubled Waters by Margaret Bonds

John Kramer

Invocation

Rev. Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting

***Hymn #199**

Precious Lord by Thomas A. Dorsey

A Requiem for George Floyd

by Henry Mollicone (1946-2022)

Requiem Aeternam

Gloria I & II

Star Born

Crossing the Bar

Meditation (in memoriam)

Hear Me Redeemer

WUS Adult Choir, John Kramer, director

Heather Janules, Sam Wilson, Narrators

Cheryl Medeiros-Nancarrow, Soprano; Brendan Buckley, Tenor; Kirsten Hart, Soprano.

Amber Wildgoose, Flute; Kathy Matasy, Clarinet; Betsy Hinkle, Joshua Addison, Violins; Elisabeth

Westner, Viola; Carol Ou, cello; Scot Fitzsimmons, double bass; Brooke Sofferman, percussion.

Offering

This evening, our offering will be donated to **The Mystic Valley Chapter of the NAACP.**

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.

Offertory

Save Me Lord, Save Me Spiritual,

arranged by Florence B Price

Kirsten Hart, Soloist

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

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 #149 *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by J. Rosamond and James Weldon Johnson

Benediction Heather Janules

Postlude *Great Day* by Adolphus Hailstork

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.

This service is made possible by the generosity of the Susan Swap Memorial Music Fund.

Hailed as “one of the most distinctive American opera composers” by the Washington Post, **Henry Mollicone** (1946-2022) has also written extensively for voice and choir as well as other ensembles and instruments. In particular, he has sought out ways to create music that positively impacts social justice issues, such as with his last work: *A Requiem for George Floyd*.

Florence Price (1887-1953) made history when the Chicago Symphony performed her Symphony No. 1 in 1933; she was the African American woman to have that distinction. Despite that success, she struggled to have her music reach a wider audience during her lifetime. Thankfully, we are discovering her works today, and recognizing her place in the pantheon of great American composers.

Margaret Bonds (1913-1972) was the student and friend of Florence Price and a formidable pianist and composer. Sadly, much of her music has been lost. Her most famous work *The Ballad of the Brown King*, with a text by Langston Hughes, was performed here in 2019.

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) is still composing and teaching at Old Dominion University in Virginia. His latest work, *A Knee on the Neck*, also pays tribute to George Floyd. It was recently premiered in Washington, D.C. on March 26th, 2022. The postlude comes from his collection of *Four Spirituals* for organ solo.