

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, July 17, 2022

Centering Thought

"I will never stop knowing that there is something you haven't thought of when you convinced that there is no God, just science and us." —John Loewy, WUS

Gathering Music All Blues, by Miles Davis Tyson Kamikawa, Sax; Steve Forcucci, guitar;
Maury Wood, bass

Community Welcome and Announcements Peter McEntee

Community Greeting *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*

Opening Words John Loewy

Chalice Lighting John Loewy

First to light up the night and feed the soul's delight.
Here the chalice burns bright and burns strong.
Using all of our reason, building till the dream is done,
Here the chalice burns bright and burns strong.
Open the minds from the start, helping hands, loving heart.
Here the chalice burns bright and burns strong.
Free from creed, dogma too. Principles guide us through.
Here the chalice burns bright and burns strong.

***Hymn #66** When the Summer Sun Is Shining

1 When the summer sun is shining over golden land and sea,
and the flowers in the hedgerow welcome butterfly and bee;
then my open heart is glowing, full of warmth for everyone,
and I feel an inner beauty which reflects the summer sun.

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

2 When the summer clouds of thunder bring the long-awaited rain,
and the thirsty soil is moistened and the grass is green again;
then I long for summer sunshine, but I know that clouds and tears
are a part of life's refreshment, like the rainbow's hopes and fears.

3 In the cool of summer evening, when the dancing insects play,
and in garden, street, and meadow linger echoes of the day;
then my heart is full of yearning; hopes and memories flood the whole
of my being, reaching inwards to the corners of my soul.

Joys and Sorrows *At this time, you are invited to come forward, light a candle and share a joy or sorrow you carry within. Please note that as this service is being livestreamed, it is available over the internet in the moment and as an archived recording.*

Silence

***Hymn #101**

Abide With Me

1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; still with me abide
When the other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changes not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with the at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Reading

American Unitarianism, or, A brief history of
the progress and present state of the Unitarian churches in America.

By REV. [Thomas Belsham](#) (Author). **Originally published:** 1815

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Peter McEntee

Martin Newhouse

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Reflection**What is Meant when "I am an Atheist" is Said?**

John Loewy

Offering

Peter McEntee

The offering is a spiritual practice, a collective affirmation of our shared values and commitment to the mission of this liberal religious congregation. Here are the different ways you can donate to the Winchester Unitarian Society.

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

Israel, by John Carisi

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.

***Closing Hymn #331**

Life Is the Greatest Gift of All

1 Life is the greatest gift of all the riches on this earth;
life and its creatures, great and small, of high and lowly birth:
so treasure it and measure it with deeds of shining worth.

2 Mind is the brightest gift of all, its thought no barrier mars;
it seeks creation's hidden plan, its quest surmounts all bars;
it reins the wind, it chains the storm, it weighs the outmost stars.

3 We are of life, its shining gift, the measure of all things;
up from the dust our temples lift, our vision soars on wings;
for seed and root, for flower and fruit, our grateful spirit sings.

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Benediction

“Lost In My Mind” by Head and The Heart

John Loewy

Postlude

St. Thomas, by Sonny Rollins

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.

Join the Chat!

Please join us at **Noon**, in-person- in the parlor and remotely via Zoom at:

www.tinyurl.com/wusworship

This will be our first post-service meeting using the “OWL” camera that will allow remote participants to be present in the parlor and aware of and able to discuss as a group and visit.

Questions for reflection:

- Do you identify with being an Atheist, Agnostic, having traditional religious tenants? or maybe still searching?
- Have you ever changed your mind about your beliefs?
- Would you like knowing that there is a God? Or does it matter?

Serving Today

Peter McEntee, Worship Associate

John Kramer, Director of Music · Tyson Kamikawa, Sax; Steve Forcucci, guitar; Maury Wood, bass
Sean Yun & Hannah Waldron, Livestream Coordinators

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