

A Celebration of the Life of

***John Roe Russell***

January 26, 1931 – May 24, 2022



“I have lived a good, long, and happy life”

**Order of Service**  
Sunday, September 18, 2022  
2:00 pm

*“Such a good thing, life. Such a wonderful idea for God to have had! The best idea there had ever been.”*

- J.M Coetzee, Age of Iron



**Gathering Music on the Bell Tower Chimes** John Kramer

**Prelude** *Adagio Cantabile* Ludwig van Beethoven

**Invocation and Welcome** The Rev. Heather Janules

**Chalice Lighting and Reading** Finch Donovan, Julia & William Russell  
John's grandchildren  
*Everyone Sang*, Siegfried Sassoon

**Hymn #142** *Let There Be Light*

**Eulogy** Heather  
Janules

**Moment of Silence**

**Anthem** *Music, When Soft Voices Die*  
Composed by John Kramer in memory of John R. Russell

WUS Adult Choir  
Words by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Music, when soft voices die,  
Vibrates in the memory;  
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,  
Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,  
Are heap'd for the belovèd's bed;  
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,  
Love itself shall slumber on.

<b>Remembrance</b>	David and Leah, John's children	
<b>Frog Song</b>	(John asked that his service be not too serious)	Led by John Kramer
	<i>Hear the lively song of the frogs in yonder pond. Creek, creek, creek, creek, creek, creek, buuull-rum!</i>	
<b>Remembrances</b>	Sheila Monks, friend of 65 years Ted Murray, friend of 44 years and work colleague	
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>My Lord What a Mornin'</i> , Harry T. Burleigh	Adult Choir
<b>Remembrances</b>	Karen Erikson, Friend of 30 years Barbara Magnuson, Friend of 35 years	
<b>Hymn #108</b>	<i>My Life Flows On</i> In remembrance of Charlie Morgan	
<b>Prayer &amp; Benediction</b>	Including words by Robert Storer	Heather Janules
<b>In the Upper Room, Dance 9</b> (excerpt)	At John's request*	Philip Glass
<b>Postlude</b>	Goldberg Variations (excerpts)	Johann Sebastian Bach

\*John was exceptionally fond of this unusual piece of music, which he heard years ago while watching the Boston Ballet perform Twyla Tharp's dance *In the Upper Room*. Whether this music speaks to you or not, we hope you will listen to hear the joy that John heard in it -- the joy of being gloriously alive.



Please join us for an outdoor reception on the Main Street side of the church.  
Remember to take a "To Do" pad from one of the baskets there!

We invite you to watch the slide show retrospective after the service.

Thanks to our ushers, Gordy and Mary McIntosh, Larry Banks, and Barbara Savage, our Minister, The Rev. Heather Janules, our Music Director, John Kramer and the Adult Choir, Sean Yun, Livestream Coordinator, and all who helped create this service.

**John Roe Russell** was a kind man of great integrity who cared deeply about family, friends, neighbors, church, community, and the wider world. He was a loving and supportive husband and father. A generous listener, John was always eager to understand the views and experiences of others. He was also generous with his time and resources, donating both liberally to organizations he saw as working to improve the world. John had a wry sense of humor and a great enjoyment of life. His exceptional intelligence and playful wit made him an excellent conversationalist. He loved to sing, read, garden, and travel. Above all, he loved his family and cherished his 62-year marriage to his wife, Maggie. He was grateful for his long, healthy, fortunate life and considered himself “a much-blessed human.”

Born in 1931 in Orange NJ, John sang with the Bretton Woods Boys Choir, attended Clifford Scott High School, and went on to Cornell University, graduating in 1952. After ROTC at Cornell, John served in the Navy for nearly three years. He and Maggie married in 1959. John earned an MBA and a DBA from Harvard and taught at Harvard and Boston University, spending the last 14 years of his career as Associate Dean of the BU School of Business. Teaching was a calling as well as a job, and the university honored John with the Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1980. He retired in 1995.

John served the Winchester Unitarian Society for 53 years in many capacities, including Chairman of the Standing Committee, Treasurer, member of the Partner Church initiative, and longtime choir member. He embraced the Unitarian ethos of respect for all people, justice and fairness in human relations, and care for the environment.

John died peacefully at his home on the morning of Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2022, at the age of 91, following a short illness.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the UU Urban Ministry ([www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)) or the Winchester Unitarian Society Memorial Fund.