

## Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, October 1, 2023  
October's Theme is "Heritage"

### *Blessing of the Animals*

**Livestream Attendees:** To notify our Tech Deck of a broadcast issue, email [checkingin@winchesteruu.org](mailto:checkingin@winchesteruu.org) or call the WUS Office - 781.729.0949

#### Centering Thought

"A person is ethical only when life, as such, is sacred, that of plants and animals as that of other [people,] and when one devotes oneself helpfully to all life that is in need of help." - Albert Schweitzer

#### Invitation to Greeting

Peter McEntee

*In person attendees: Note that 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. Livestreamers: Please let us know who you are and what's on your mind by sending an email to [checkingin@winchesteruu.org](mailto:checkingin@winchesteruu.org)*

**Ringing of the Bell** *We are called back to worship by the ringing of the bell from our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania*

**The Animal Parade!** **The Adventures of Mr. Bigby** by John Kramer  
(A squirrel I once knew)

#### Community Welcome and Announcements

Peter McEntee

*You may also review weekly announcements at [www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings)*

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Invocation and Chalice Lighting** By Maureen Killoran (Adapted)  
Heather Janules and Peter McEntee

**\*Hymn #21** *For the Beauty of the Earth* Gray Hymnal

**First Reflection** *Giant Gratitude* Heather Janules  
Including an excerpt from the episode "Animal Minds" by Radiolab

**Anthem** *I Got Me a Cat* WUS Children's Chorale

**Story** "Tell Your Dog I Said 'Hi'"

**Kindling of the Light** *The Swan* by Camille Saint-Saëns  
Tyson Kamikawa, Sax  
*Photos of the animals we remember will be shared during this ritual. For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.*

#### Silence

**Hymn #15** *The Lone Wild Bird* Gray Hymnal  
*Please remain seated*

**Second Reflection** *Seeing All Beings* Heather Janules

**Offering** Peter McEntee

This morning, we share our gifts with **Northeast Animal Shelter**, whose "no-kill mission is to save as many adoptable dogs and cats as [they] can and place them in loving forever homes." Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically. **Text (781) 230-6690** or visit [www.tinyurl.com/wusgiveonline](http://www.tinyurl.com/wusgiveonline)  
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**

*St. Francis' Prayer* by Margaret Bonds

**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.

**Blessing** *When invited to do so, place a gentle hand on your animal companion or on your heart and read together the unison blessing.*

We give thanks for you, a gift from the Spirit of Life  
May your belly never feel empty  
May you only know human hands in kindness  
And may you live a long and happy life with us  
We bless you as you are a blessing to this world

**\*Hymn #203** *All Creatures of the Earth and Sky* Gray Hymnal

**Benediction** By Gary Kowalski Peter McEntee

**Postlude** *Flight of the Bumblebee* by Nikolai Rimsky- Korsakov

**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.

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**Flower Dedication:** *Today's flowers celebrate the beauty of the natural world and all the beings who are part of the great web of life.*

**Serving Today**

Ushers and Greeters: Chris Weigand, Roger Wilson, Marilyn Wilson and Susan Woodward

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  
or at the pew closest to the candle table  
immediately after the service

John Kramer, *Director of Music* · The Rev. Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* · Peter McEntee, *Worship Associate* · Griffin Correia, *Livestream Coordinator*

**WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members**

Dennis Brett, Vicky Coccoluto, Chuck Khuen, Liz Lintz (Clerk,) Gordy McIntosh, Claire McNeill, Fritzie Nace, Martin Newhouse, Stephen Perepeluk, Brad Steele (Treasurer) and Marcy Tompson

Contact your Standing Committee via [SC@winchesteruu.org](mailto:SC@winchesteruu.org)

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

### **Music Notes:**

I used to observe the squirrels in my former neighborhood running to and fro on the telephone wires behind our house. Somehow, I came to calling one Mr. Bigby, and wrote this song to describe their adventures. ♦ The Chorale brings us an old traditional song, sometimes title *I Bought me a Cat*. Here we have updated it with animals of our choosing. ♦ *The Swan* is perhaps the most famous excerpt from *The Carnival of the Animals* by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. ♦ We are also delighted to present the *St. Francis' Prayer* by Margaret Bonds (1913-1972). (St. Francis being the patron saint of animals). You may remember that we presented *The Ballad of the Brown King* by this esteemed African-American composer a few years ago.. Sadly, many of her choral works have not been available until very recently and we are grateful to the efforts of scholars and publishers who have made it possible for us to perform her music.