

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 17, 2023

December's Theme is "Mystery"

Centering Thought

The Christmas story "is about a child, long ago and far away, and it is about the child of now. In you and me. Waiting behind the door of our hearts for something wonderful to happen. A child who is impractical, unrealistic, simpleminded and terribly vulnerable to joy." — Robert Fulghum

Gathering Music

John Kramer

Invitation to Greeting

The Rev. Heather Janules

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

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

Martin Newhouse

You may also review weekly announcements at www.tinyurl.com/WUShappenings

Invocation

I Saw Three Ships (Traditional English Carol)

Children's Chorale

Chalice Lighting

Lit by Calvin Levering

Chalice lighting words by Brian Kiely

Advent Candle words of dedication by Rosemary Morrison (Adapted)

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

***Hymn** *We Three Kings* See Insert

***Hymn** *O, Little Town of Bethlehem* See Insert

Benediction By Maureen Killoran (Adapted)

Postlude *Linus and Lucy*, Vince Guaraldi

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.

Flower Dedication: *This Sunday's altar flowers are dedicated to the courage of all refugee families, reflected in the story we retell today.*

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Chris Weigand, Marilyn Wilson,
Alison Kirchgasser and Stephen Perepeluk

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern with an attentive listener.

Today's PCA is Karen Caputo @ 617-851-5947 or
at the pew closest to the candle table
immediately after the service.

John Kramer, *Director of Music* ◦ Martin Newhouse, *Worship Associate* ◦ The Rev. Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* ◦ Brenna Mayer, *Religious Education Coordinator* ◦ Jason Tran, *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**

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

Carol Insert – Let's Sing!

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(Chorus)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Chorus)

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the baby's birth. (Chorus)

3 Down in a lowly manger the humble babe was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Chorus)

Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little dear Jesus lay down his sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where he lay
The little dear Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes
But little dear Jesus no crying he makes
I love thee, dear Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.

The First Nowell

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds, in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

(Chorus) Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. (Chorus)

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow.

1 There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the babe is born;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

(Chorus) Leave your ewes and leave your lambs,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Leave your sheep and leave your rams,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

2 If you hark to the angel's holy word,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. (Chorus)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

(Chorus) O Star of wonder, star of light,
Star, with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us through this perfect night.

2 Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
love forever, ceasing never, in our hearts to reign. (Chorus)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
Let praises ring: from God they bring goodwill to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently the wonder is made known,
When God imparts to human hearts the gift that is our own.
No ear may hear that coming, but in this worldly din,
When souls are truly humble, then the dear babe rests within.

Join Us for More Holiday Joy!

TODAY: Holiday Lunch and Auction

After Worship, Metcalf Hall

After a delicious lunch, will sing more carols!

Auction proceeds benefit our youth group (WUSYG) service trip, serving the community of War, West Virginia in April

Thursday, December 21st:

Solstice Ceremony and Caroling

6:30 pm, Metcalf Hall

We will gather in the dark, lighting candles, singing and sharing words celebrating the night and the coming light. After we go outdoors and jump the flaming wreath, we will serenade the people of downtown Winchester with Christmas carols. A good experience for people of all ages...Invite your friends!

Sunday, December 24th:

Christmas Eve Services at 4pm and 7pm

Sanctuary and www.tinyurl.com/wuslivestream

The 4pm service is particularly family friendly. Both services include a retelling of the Christmas story and a time to behold our Silent Night amid candlelight