

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 3, 2023

December's Theme is "Mystery"

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

Centering Thought

"You bring yourself...before what is ultimate and bigger than your lone life... Meanwhile, the armful of worries you brought to the edge of mystery have fluttered to your feet..." – Angela Herrera

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

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

Invocation

Ivan Correia

Chalice Lighting and Kindling the Advent Wreath

Chalice Lighting words by Laura Wallace; Lit by Jeremiah Fowler

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

***Hymn # 226** *People, Look East* Gray Hymnal

First Reflection *What's in the Box?* Brenna Mayer

Blessing *The Light Within* John Kramer
As children and teachers leave for Religious Education, the community is invited to sing them on their way!

May the light within you shine before you, everyday, everyday.
May the light within you shine before you, guide your way, guide your way.
May the love we share surround you and chase your fears away.
May the light within you shine before you, this we pray, this we pray.

Poem “How the Light Comes,” by Jan Richardson Heather Janules

Kindling of the Light *Enigma* by J.J. Johnson
For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence

Hymn #86 *Blessed Spirit of My Life* Gray Hymnal
Please remain seated

Story Retold by Heather Janules and Ivan Correia

Anthem

Sweet Radiant Mystery, Catherine Dalton

WUS Adult Choir

Second Reflection “A Mysterious Appearance”

Heather Janules, in collaboration with Ivan Correia

Offering

Ivan Correia

This morning, we share our gifts with the **Malden Warming Center**, whose mission is, "to serve those experiencing homelessness by providing safe shelter and warmth during the winter months, recognizing each person's inherent dignity and unique circumstance."

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically.

Text (781) 230-6690 or visit 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

Wachet Auf by J.S. Bach

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 #92**

Mysterious Presence, Source of All

Gray Hymnal

Benediction

By Ivan Correia

Postlude

Advent by Emma Lout Diemer

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: Today's flowers are dedicated this morning by Erin Graham, "in memory of Mary White, dear friend and mentor; loved and missed by many. Her gentle and caring ways made the world a better place."

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Robbie Brown 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 Dennis Brett @ 781-729-7787
or at the pew closest to the candle table
immediately after the service

John Kramer, *Director of Music* ◦ The Rev. Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* ◦ Ivan Correia, *Worship Associate* ◦ Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education Coordinator* ◦ Jay Kwan, *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.

Music Notes:

This morning's music witnesses Mystery and the season of Advent, which begins this Sunday. The Anthem is composed by UU composer Catherine Dalton; she also wrote the text. The Kindling Music is by Jazz trombonist and composer J.J. Johnson. We also hear two Advent pieces, *Wachet Auf!* or *Sleeper's Awake* by the venerable J.S. Bach, and the more recent *Advent* by the American composer Emma Lou Diemer, who turns 96 this year.

Fire Drill Guidance

Our upcoming fire drill aims to get everyone out of the building as quickly and safely as possible. Staff, Worship Associates, Ushers, Greeters, and RE Teachers all play a role in helping people out.

Everyone is to meet at the World War I Memorial at the corner of Main Street and Mystic Valley Parkway.

If you are in the Sanctuary or that area, exit via the Main Street or Mystic Valley Parkway/Bell Tower doors. Note that only the Main Street exit has a ramp. Greeters, now promoted to Exit Executives, will open doors and direct you out. Please cross Main Street at the traffic light via the crosswalk.

If you are in the RE wing or that area, follow the posted fire evacuation maps. Proceed to the WWI Memorial and use the Main Street crosswalk at the light.

If you are mobility-challenged or need assistance, tell an usher, greeter or staff person. If they are not available, ask a fellow attendee for assistance. If you are not mobility challenged and notice someone might need assistance, please be willing to help them as they asked to be helped.

Everyone is required to leave the building. You are not required to get to the Memorial if it is unreasonable to do so.

Parents, if you believe your child is too young to handle the fire drill without you, leave after the Offering and visit them in their RE classroom. Bring your coat and theirs if they forgot it.

Thank you all for doing your part to promote safety within our community and sacred space!