

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, December 31, 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

"What seeds are you planting for the new year?

How are you weaving your magic into your relationships with others?

How can we center beauty and goodness and love in all that's ahead?"

– The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President

Prelude "Trinity Fanfare"

Performed by The Chalice Bells,
First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor;
Directed by the rev. theresa rohlck;

Edited by Mike Halertz; Composed by Alex Guebert.

License purchased through Handbell Musicians of America

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 and Chalice Lighting

"Weaving Magic, Love Becoming" by the Rev. Byron "Tyler" Coles

First Reflection*Bridge of Flowers*

by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha;
Used with permission from Flamingo Rampant

Meditation*"A Winter Blessing"* by Rebecca Ann Parker**Kindling of the Light***Shelter Me*, Written and performed by Lea Morris

For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence**Hymn***Spirit of Life,*

Video by the First UU Congregation of Terre Haute, IN
Please remain seated

Second Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President

Offering

This morning, we share our gifts with **UU Mass Action**, organizing local Unitarian Universalists for engagement with social justice action, in partnership with other faith-based and community organizations.

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically. **Text GIVE to(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

Meditation no. 6, John Kramer

Enjoy this reflection on the past year at the Winchester Unitarian Society...

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.

Reflection and Prayer “Life Abundant” by the Rev. Megan Foley

Ritual of Tending and Planting

When invited to do so, you are welcome to come forward, name one thing you are proud of from 2023 and what you are “planting” for the New Year. If you would like someone to come to you, please raise your hand.

Benediction

“Open to the Beauty” by Kathy McGowan

Postlude

Wings of a Dove, Performed by bēheld, Traditional spiritual.
Live from worship at the UU Church of Arlington, VA.
Directed by [Jen Hayman](#); vocal arrangement by [Rhiannon](#);
Used with permission.

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

In memory of Brenda Martino (FE18) on what would have been her 20th birthday. Wishing everyone a circle of love in the New Year.

– Ginger Hanson

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Patty Cameron, Susan Woodward,
Claire McNeill and Terry Currier

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

The Rev. Heather Janules, *Parish Minister* and
Isaac Kamikawa, *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.