

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, January 14, 2024

January's Theme is "Justice and Equity"

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

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." - The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

Peter McEntee

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

Invocation by Richard Gilbert

Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting

Lit by Piper Mitchell

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Hymn *For All That Is Our Life*
Please remain seated

For all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;
For all life is a gift which we are called to use
To build the common good and make our own days glad.

Reflection Brett Mulder

Hymn *For All That Is Our Life*

For sorrow we must bear, for failures, pain, and loss,
For each new thing we learn, for fearful hours that pass:
We come with praise and thanks for all that is our life.

Reflection Celia Oslakovic

Hymn *For All That Is Our Life*

For needs which others serve, for services we give,
For work and its rewards, for hours of rest and love;
We come with praise and thanks for all that is our life.

Offering

This morning, one half of our gifts will be applied to next week's service project, creation of care kits for those experiencing homelessness at "Mass and Cass" (Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard). The kits will be made and distributed in partnership with **Moms on the Mile**, a local grassroots organization. Any residual proceeds will be put towards a future WUS social justice project.

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

Adoration, Florence Price

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 #6**

Just as Long as I Have Breath

Gray Hymnal

Benediction

By Nathan Walker (Adapted)

Postlude

Bright Mississippi, Thelonious Monk

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: The altar flowers celebrate Velma Kelley's birthday (January 8th), given in perpetuity by her family.

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Phil Coonley and Marilyn Mullane

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* ◦ Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious
Education Coordinator* ◦ Griffin Correia, *Livestream Coordinator*

WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members

Dennis Brett, Vicky Coccoluto, Chuck Khuen, Liz Lintz (Clerk), Gordy McIntosh (Co-Chair), Claire McNeill, Fritzie Nace, Martin Newhouse (Co-Chair), 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: The Anthem this morning is a setting of the poem *Prospects* by Anthony Hecht, a poem which invokes the journey we make through life. "We have set out from here for the sublime/ Pastures of summer shade and mountain stream;/ I have no doubt we shall arrive on time./ Is all the green of that enameled prime/ A snapshot recollection or a dream?/ We have set out from here for the sublime/ Without provisions, without one thin dime,/ And yet, for all our clumsiness, I deem/ It certain that we shall arrive on time./ No guidebook tells you if you'll have to climb/ Or swim. However foolish we may seem,/ We have set out from here for the sublime/ And must get past the scene of an old crime/ Before we falter and run out of

steam,/ Riddled by doubt that we'll arrive on time./ Yet even in winter a pale
paradigm/ Of birdsong utters its obsessive theme./ We have set out from here
for the sublime;/I have no doubt we shall arrive on time.” ♦ The Kindling
Music is in memory of last weeks' snowfall. ♦ The Offertory and Postlude are
both composed by prominent African American musicians and are offered in
recognition of the Martin Luther King holiday and our continued struggle for
racial justice and equity.