

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, January 28, 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

"My own heroes are the dreamers, those...who tried to make the world a better place than when they found it, whether in small ways or great ones. Some succeeded, some failed, most had mixed results... but it is the effort that's heroic..." — George R.R. Martin

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

Stephen Perepeluk

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

Special Announcement

Invocation

Heather Janules

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Chalice Lighting By David Breeden Lit by Otto Spencer + Grown Up

***Hymn #298** *Wake, Now My Senses* Gray Hymnal

First Reflection *Try, Try Again* 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.

Meditation

“Prophets of a Future Not Our Own” by Cardinal John Dearden
(Abridged and Adapted)

Kindling of the Light *Pastorale, William B. Cooper*

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

Silence

Hymn #318 *We Would Be One* Gray Hymnal
Please remain seated

Reading “Letter to Planet Earth” (Abridged; Part I) by Jason Cook

Anthem *Kasar mie la Gahi (The Earth is Tired), Alberto Grau*
WUS Adult Choir

Reading “Letter to Planet Earth” (Abridged; Part II) by Jason Cook

Second Reflection

"We Can Do Hard Things"

Heather Janules

Offering

Stephen Perepeluk

This morning, we share our gifts with the **Better Future Project - MA** whose mission is "to build a diverse, powerful, and democratic grassroots movement that will drive society to address climate change and its devastating effects, advancing a fair and fast transition beyond coal, oil, and gas toward an economy powered by renewable energy that equitably benefits all people."

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*One Voice, The Wailin' Jennys*

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 #1064Blue Boat Home*

Teal Hymnal

Benediction

By Tom Schade (Adapted)

Postlude*from Waldszenen (Forest Scenes), Robert Schumann*

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 to all those who try ambitious things for the common good and, succeed or fail, seek their goal with love.

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Patty Cameron 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 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* ◦ Stephen Perepeluk, *Worship Associate* ◦ Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education Coordinator* ◦ Jason Tran, *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:

This morning's evocative anthem was composed by the Venezuelan composer Alberto Grau (b. 1937). The anthem contains these notes:

“For an international mobilization to save THE EARTH and conscientious effort regarding the problems of the environment. The inhabitants of the African Sahel say: ‘Kasar mie la gahi’ ‘The earth is tired.’ *Sahel* is Arabic for ‘shore’-- it is the southern boundary of the Sahara Desert, which is likened to a sea.”

◆ Other music invokes nature, from the pasture to the forest. ◆ And the offertory reminds us that we need all of our voices to sing together in harmony in order to solve the climate crisis.