

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, March 3, 2024

March's Theme is "Transformation"

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

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

Love Reaches Out, Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow

WUS Youth Choir

Chalice Lighting

By Peter Raible (Adapted)

Lit by Olson McClurken + Grown Up

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

***Hymn #163** *For the Earth Forever Turning* Gray Hymnal

First Reflection *Acorns and Oaks* 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 By the Rev. Bob Storer (Adapted)

Kindling of the Light *Summerland, William Grant Still*
For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand.

Silence

Hymn #123 *Spirit of Life* Gray Hymnal
Please remain seated

Second Reflection John Healey

Anthem *We Are One, Brian Tate* WUS Adult Choir

Third Reflection *The Best Time to Plant a Tree* Heather Janules

Offering Peter McEntee

In recognition of the **Poor People's Campaign** rally in Boston this weekend, this Sunday we share the plate with the Poor People's Campaign, organizing on a platform of enhancing civil rights, confronting poverty, criminal justice

reform, environmental justice and demilitarization. You may learn more here:
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/our-demands/>

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 *The Birch*, Jean Sibelius

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** *Seed of Hope*

There's a seed of hope* in my soul,
A little seed of hope* in my soul,
Gonna tend it everyday, so that it grows strong
Oh this I pray,
Then that seed of hope* soon will bloom in my soul.

*hope, love, justice, joy

Benediction By Kent McKusick

Postlude *Maple Leaf Rag*, Scott Joplin

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 chancel flowers are dedicated to all those, past, present and future, whose service and generosity make the Winchester Unitarian Society flourish.

Serving Today

Ushers and Greeters: Susan Woodward, Gordy McIntosh,
Gloria Legvold and Mary McIntosh

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* ◦ The Rev. Heather Janules, Parish Minister ◦ Peter McEntee, *Worship Associate* ◦ Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education Coordinator* ◦ Isaac Kamikawa, *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 Birch, our morning's offertory, comes from a set of five piano pieces Jean Sibelius (composer of a favorite hymn tune *Finlandia*) wrote. In these pieces, Sibelius is said to have portrayed how, "the trees speak to him". Other tree music includes Scott Joplin's iconic *Maple Leaf Rag* (note that maple sugaring season is beginning). ♦ We also celebrate our community with Brian Tate's *We Are One*. Tate's text is adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. ♦ We begin the service with a reminder of the power of our love reaching out in a song from the folk duo *Emma's Revolution*. ♦ And the Kindling music refers to Summerland, "the pinnacle of human spiritual achievement in the afterlife". Surely a place to aspire to.