

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, July 26, 2026

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

I would like to say that one of the primary reasons for being alive is to experience the pleasure of being alive. I would like to write as if it were a given to rise and look out the window on a particularly beautiful light on a summer morning, or on one of those winter mornings when snow has fallen and made the whole of New York City quiet, or you name your favorite such sight.
- William Mathews (1942-1997)

Prelude *Song Without Words, Op.19 No. 1, Felix Mendelssohn*

John Kramer

**Community Welcome Announcements, and
Invitation to Greeting**

Liz Lintz

*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***

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Words

"The Dogs at Live Oak Beach, Santa Cruz,"
by Alicia Ostriker

David Hummon

Chalice Lighting

Liz Lintz

***Opening Hymn #1018** *Come Go With Me to that Land* *Teal Hymnal*

First Reflection Down by the Riverside David Hummon
and Liz Lintz

Painting: Down by the Riverside, Thomas Hart Benton

Poem: Dave Etter

Blessing *Down by the Riverside*

As children and teachers leave for Religious Education, the community is invited to sing them on their way!

1. I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, Down by the riverside,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside (2x)

Chorus: I ain't gonna study war no more (6x)

2. I'm gonna shout and sing a song of joy, Down by the riverside,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside (2x)

Chorus: I ain't gonna study war no more (6)

Joys and Sorrows *At this time, you are invited to come forward, light a candle, and share a joy or sorrow you carry within. Please note that, as this service is being livestreamed, it is available over the internet in the moment and as an archived recording. If anyone wishes to have a candle brought to them, please raise your hand.*

Silence

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Centering Hymn #95
Please remain seated

There is More Love Somewhere

Gray Hymnal

Reading

“The Word” by Tony Hoagland

Liz Lintz

Second Reflection

“On Poetry and Joy”

David Hummon

Offering

Liz Lintz

The offering is a spiritual practice, a collective affirmation of our shared values and commitment to the mission of this liberal religious congregation.

Those in the sanctuary are also welcome to donate electronically.

Text GIVE to (781) 230-6690, used the QR Code or visit

www.tinyurl.com/wusgiveonline Please write or type the date of your offering in the memo line or comment field.



Offertory

Joy, Hiromi Uehara

John Kramer

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.

***Closing Hymn 29**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Gray Hymnal

Benediction

"How It Might Continue"
by Rosemary Wahtola Trommer

David Hummon

Postlude *Sparks (Étincelles)*, Moritz Moskowsky

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.

Sharing and Discussion: How might we reflect on the significance and meaning of joy in our lives?

Afterward: The T. H. Benton painting and Dave Etter poem in the first reflection are from *Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by Twentieth Century Art*, a wonderful book for young people edited by Jan Greenberg. For a good, recent collection of poems on gratitude, hope, and joy, see *How to Love the World*, edited by James Crews. For a more scholarly, critical collection, see *Joy: 100 Poems*, edited by Christian Wiman.

Music Notes

The Prelude and Postlude this morning come at the suggestion of the digital magazine *The Interlude* in an article titled "Melodies of the Heart Jigs of Joy." This includes "The Melody of Bliss" contained in the Mendelssohn and the "Joy in Motion" we experience in the Mozskowski. The selection of *Joy*, by Japanese jazz composer and pianist for the Offertory should seem obvious for this service.

Serving Today

Marianne DiBlasi, *Summer Minister* ♦

David Hummon, *Worship Leader* ♦ John Kramer, *Director of Music* ♦

Liz Lintz, *Worship Associate* ♦ Jason Tran, *Livestream Coordinator*

WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members

Kim Foley, *Chair* (2028), John Keller (2027), Gordon McIntosh (2027),
Marcy Tompson (2027), Liz Scott (2028), Matt Wilson (2028),
Ryan Levering (2029), Becky McVey (2029), Lee Barton (2029),
Ginger Hanson (Clerk), Judy Murray & Chris Weigand (Co-Treasurers).

Contact your Standing Committee via SC@winchesteruu.org