

Welcome to Worship!

Winchester Unitarian Society · Sunday, October 4, 2026

October's Theme is Courage

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

"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language."
— Martin Buber

Gathering Music

John Kramer

Invitation to Greeting

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

*In person attendees: Note that the congregation is periodically visible in the livestream. If you do not want to be seen, please sit in the marked section of pews that do not appear on camera. **Livestreamers: Please let us know who you are and what's on your mind by sending an email to checkingin@winchesteruu.org***

Ring of the Bell

Animal Parade

Waltz of the Puppy, Frédéric Chopin

Community Welcome and Announcements

Jean McClurken

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

Sung Invocation

Bought Me A Cat, Traditional Children's Chorale

Chalice Lighting

lit by Kai

*Hymn #21

For the Beauty of the Earth

Gray Hymnal

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

Meditation

“Witnessing Prayer” by Kate Steinberg

Kindling of the Light

Eyes of the Cat, Carla Bley

This is the time in our service where we light a candle for a joy or a sorrow that is sitting on our heart. For those in the Sanctuary, if you would like a candle brought to you, please raise your hand

Silence

Hymn #15

The Lone, Wild Bird

Gray Hymnal

Please remain seated

Time for All Ages

“The Lion & the Mouse Show Up”

by Rev. Julián Soto

Sam Wilson

Offering

Our share-the-plate organization this month is the **International Institute of New England (IINE)**. IINE is a century-old nonprofit that creates opportunities for refugees and immigrants in Massachusetts and New Hampshire through resettlement support, English education, job training and placement, and pathways to U.S. citizenship. Their work helps newcomers build stability, gain economic self-sufficiency, and fully participate in their communities. Our offering this week will support IINE’s vital mission of welcoming and empowering new Americans as they rebuild their lives.

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

Counterpoint of the Animals, Adriano Banchieri

WUS Adult Choir

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.

Homily "Paying Attention" Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

Animal Companionship Responsive Blessing by K.G. Johnston

People: We give thanks for animal companionship in our lives and on the earth.

***Hymn #203** *All Creatures of the Earth and Sky* Gray Hymnal

Benediction

Postlude *The Swift Animals (from Carnival of the Animals),*
Camille Saint-Saëns

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.

Serving Today

Ushers & Greeters:

Lisa Spencer, Lua Spencer & Deb Walsh

The Sunday Pastoral Care Associate is available to those wanting to share a personal concern with an attentive listener.

Today's PCA is Terry Currier 781-690-6112

or at the pew closest to the candle table

immediately after the service

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, *Interim Minister* ♦ John Kramer, *Director of Music* ♦
Jean McClurken, *Worship Associate* ♦ Sam Wilson, *Director of Youth and
Children's Ministries* ♦ Brenna Mayer, *Children's Religious Education
Coordinator* ♦ Devon McClurken, *Livestream Coordinator*

WUS Standing Committee (Governing Board) Members

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

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, written in 1608, is a humorous portrayal of various animals joining in counterpoint over a sung bass line.

Listen carefully for the dog, cat, owl, and cuckoo. Other music pays homage to our animal friends.