

**MARQUETTE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**

**Sunday, September 15, 2024 - 11:00 A.M.**

**“Crossing the Water – A Homecoming Service for the New Church Year”**

**Presenter: Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk**

**Music: February Sky (Phil Cooper & Susan Urban)**

*Please feel free to sing at home at any point in the service  
where you feel moved to do so!*

Words to all the songs and readings, including congregational songs,  
are on the pages following this one.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING MUSIC:** "Blue Water World," by John Denver

**OPENING READING:** David C. Pohl

**CHALICE LIGHTING** (responsive - see below)

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "Gather the Family," by David Tamulevich (see insert or screen)

**SHARING JOYS & SORROWS**

**UNISON OFFERTORY READING** (see below)

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:** "Mull of the Mountain," Trad Arr.

**INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT:** "The Waterhole," Graeme Base

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Hold On," by Chris Smither

**REFLECTION:** "Water Is Life - *Mni Wiconi*" - Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk

**WATER COMMUNION RITUAL**

**\*CLOSING CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** "Crossing the Waters," by Bill Staines (see insert or screen)

**CLOSING WORDS**

**EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE** (unison)

**MUSIC FOR CLOSING:** "Motion Song," by Susan Urban

# BLUE WATER WORLD

John Denver

Blue water world of oceans and oceans

Rain that falls like love as a gift from the sky

The blue water world of rivers and streams

Like wishes and dreams that will come true by and by

On our beautiful, beautiful, beautiful blue water world

Oh, we have come from everywhere, to gather here as one

All children of the universe, bright shining as the sun

We give ourselves completely to each bright and shining day

To try and make a difference, to find a better way

Tomorrow will not wait for us and yesterday is gone

Today is turning into dust and we are coming home

We are coming home

To a blue water world of oceans and oceans

Rain that falls like love as a gift from the sky

A blue water world of rivers and streams

Like wishes and dreams that will come true by and by

And the gift that was given to us we are giving to you

Our beautiful, beautiful, beautiful blue water world

Blue water world of oceans and oceans

Blue water world of rivers and streams

And the gift that was given to us we are giving to you

Our beautiful, beautiful, beautiful blue water world

Our beautiful, beautiful, beautiful blue water world

CHALICE LIGHTING (responsive):

Leader - We light this flame as a symbol of the new life enlightening our way, as a symbol of the warmth in every human heart.

All - Let the lighting of this flame rekindle in us the inner light of hope, of peace, of love; may we share that light with all people.

GATHER THE FAMILY

David Tamulevich

CHORUS:

Gather the family, here we belong,  
And welcome, good stranger, come in.  
Our voices together all singing one song,  
And it's here that the future begins.

Our ancestors came from away, far away,  
From a thousand traditions and kin,  
What we all share together is: we stand here today  
With a chance to start over again.

CHORUS

Our measure of worth's not in power or gold,  
The greatest truth comes from the heart,  
It's how we take care of the weak and the old,  
And this is a place we can start. CHORUS

And so like a forest our roots hold the past,  
While our branches reach into the sky,  
Let our gift to our children be family that lasts  
And a future to which they can fly.

CHORUS 2X

## UNISON OFFERTORY READING

This congregation is the community of ourselves

Its energy and resources are our energy and resources.

Its wealth is what we share.

As we contribute to the life of this community, we affirm our lives within it.

HOLD ON

Chris Smither

Let it fly and lonely cry, everybody's free

I will decide how I'll be tied, but freedom, be the death of me

We'll build the walls around our brains, leave these prisons in our chains

And hold on

And I thought I had control, I tried, but now I would be satisfied to hold on.

I thought I had control, I tried, but now I would be satisfied to hold on.

Tell me what to do, and I'll tell you what I'll say

My freedom will be measured by the length to which I'll disobey

Tell me where to go and I'll freely tell you no

And I will hold on

But leave me on my own and I'll lock these shackles to my bones

And hold on.

Freedom for the soul is what we want, but when it fades

We'll treat it like a burden, till the devil feels he's underpaid

We'll drag that spirit door to door, till finally it can't move no more

It just holds on

Till the only thing that's truly free is this little voice that's telling me

To hold on.

REPEAT LAST VERSE

Yeah, the only thing that's truly free is this little voice that's telling me

To hold on. (2X) Hold on.

## CROSSING THE WATER

Bill Staines

### CHORUS:

We are crossing the water our whole life through,  
We are making a passage that is straight and true,  
Every heart is a vessel, every dream is a light,  
Shining through the darkness of the blackest night.

Well, there is no shallow water and naught but love to keep  
Us safely from the dangers and the devils of the deep.  
But with every breath within us, we search forever more,  
To find some peaceful harbor on that far off shore.

### CHORUS

For some it is a glory, for some it is a game  
For some it is a story filled with emptiness and pain,  
But as rising winds in chorus, we search for steady ground,  
There is only that before us, there can be no turning round.

### CHORUS

Oh, there is no other journey that will ever be the same,  
No second chance horizon that will call you by your name.  
When the welling waves wash o'er you, and the stormy winds they drive  
Give your heart a song, sing it loud and long, keep your dreams alive.

### CHORUS (2X)

### EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE (unison)

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.

## MOTION SONG

Susan Urban

I sail at the midpoint of my life's golden journey,  
With as much time behind as I have yet before;  
And I pause now to ponder how the sea will keep changing,  
E'er I cast out my anchor and put into shore.  
When the waves have grown calm and the breeze blows so gentle,  
Then they turn and the ocean is stormy once more.

### CHORUS:

Ceaselessly moving, endlessly flowing,  
As the winds and the waters that circle the earth,  
As the forest that burns, that the seeds may start growing,  
And fulfill once again the great law of rebirth.

Sometimes I sit where my father is buried,  
Gazing out at the graveyard so spacious and wide,  
And I can't help but wonder if all those who lie here  
Had expected to slumber in peace when they died.  
And I don't have an answer, but if life follows nature,  
I'd expect they were in for a mighty surprise!

### CHORUS

My heart beats with joy at the bright leaves of autumn,  
Where they flame gold and crimson before they must die.  
They feel no regret for the green of the summer,  
As they flash their fall colors and then say good-bye.  
And I won't be afraid now to face my September,  
As the leaves show their colors, by god so will I!

### CHORUS