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The Same River Twice

Merging of Waters Family Sunday



Unity Church–Unitarian
Sunday, September 11, 2022
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
[Livestream](#) at 9:00 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sunday, September 11, 2022
**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC Peter Mayer, singer/songwriter

WELCOME Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Interim Senior Minister

RINGING THE BELL

PRELUDE *God is a River* Words and music by Peter Mayer

CALL TO WORSHIP & CHALICE LIGHTING *River Call* Rev. Karen Gustafson
Rev. Manish K. Mishra-Marzetti Interim Minister of Pastoral Care

*OPENING HYMN #347 *Gather the Spirit* Ahmed Anzaldúa, piano

*UNISON AFFIRMATION #473

Love is the spirit of this church and service its law.
This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace
To seek the truth in love And to help one another.

SILENCE FOR A TIME

EMBRACING MEDITATION & PRAYER

*RESPONSIVE HYMN #210 *Wade in the Water*

STORY FOR ALL AGES The Story of Nahshon Rev. KP Hong
Minister of Faith Formation

OFFERING & OFFERTORY *Holy Now* Words and music by Peter Mayer

HOMILY *The Same River Twice*

*RITUAL TO WELCOME INTERIM MINISTRY Alex Askew, Board Secretary

Secretary of the Congregation: This year, the Board hired Rev. Kathleen Rolenz to serve as our Interim Senior Minister. We also hired Rev. Karen Gustafson to serve as our Interim Minister of Pastoral Care. This ritual recognizes the unique nature of both of these ministries.

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz and Rev. Karen Gustafson, we have asked you to journey with us during this time of transition in the life of our congregation. We are grateful that you have chosen to be with us. Because we understand that the interim time can be both challenging and joyful, will you now take up the mantle of transitional ministry with the members of Unity Church? Will you teach us to the best of your ability, about the interim tasks that we must do to fully prepare ourselves for our next chapter? *Rev. Kathleen and Rev. Karen:* I will.

Secretary: I ask you — members of Unity Church—Unitarian — will you support Rev. Kathleen and Rev. Karen as they work with us, bringing to us their knowledge, skill, and care? Will you allow our interim ministers to take risks, to make mistakes, to ask for help when needed? Will you open your mind, heart, and hands to this ministry, embracing it with honesty coupled with kindness?

Members of the Congregation: We will.

Revs. Kathleen and Karen: With gratitude for the trust you place in us, we accept this ministry of integrity, service and joy.

*MERGING OF WATERS LITANY OF REUNION

From K. Patton and M. Piercy, adapted

Leader: We arrive out of many singular rooms, traveling over the branching streets, moving through our living spaces, to reach this place, this time, of sanctuary and community.

Congregation: *We come to be assured that our siblings in faith still join with us, to restore their images upon our hearts and their presence in our lives.*

Leader: We enlarge our voices, lifting them up together across the distance.

Congregation: *We try again that solitude found in the midst of those who, with us, seek their hidden reckonings.*

Leader: We rejoice in the faces of those around us, and remember with longing the faces we do not see.

Congregation: *We celebrate the new forms of community we are discovering and strengthening today. This is the reason of cities, of homes, of assemblies in the houses of fellowship and in gatherings online. It is good to be with one another in person and in spirit.*

Leader: Gathered at the well of renewal that is our church, gathered to bless and be blessed by beauty, we, who long to live lives of integrity, service and joy, now pledge again to organize our longing in the interest of a larger love.

Congregation: *The pitcher cries for water to carry. And a person for work that is real.*

MERGING OF WATERS

*CLOSING HYMN #1064 (teal hymnal) *Blue Boat Home*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Water* Words and music by Peter Mayer

The flowers in the Sanctuary are in celebration of and with gratitude to our talented, flexible, creative and dedicated staff who are holding our boat steady through stormy seas.

Freshwater is a public non-profit that is dedicated to preserving freshwater resources and their surrounding watersheds through programs and science-based policy work that equips individuals and communities to take their next steps in protecting and preserving our freshwater resources. Unity Church member Rebecca Flood is a Freshwater fan! Donate to the offering online at bit.ly/sundayoffering.

Minnesota's Peter Mayer has been singing and songwriting full-time for 25 years, performing in venues across the United States and beyond. He writes songs for a small planet — songs about interconnectedness and the human journey—songs about life on earth and the mysterious and wondrous fact of our existence. He also writes about dress hats, pumpkins and pajamas, and other important stuff. His music has been performed by artists like Kathy Mattea, David Wilcox, Claudia Schmidt, Anne Hills, Priscilla Herdman, Darryl Purpose, Billy Jonas, and Ronny Cox, to name a few. His work has been included in song books, church hymnals, and folk radio playlists across the country. He is the recipient of fellowships from the McKnight and the Bush foundations. Peter has eleven albums to his credit, and has sold over 100,000 of them. He lives in Stillwater, Minnesota, with his wife and two daughters. www.petermayer.net

To access the Sanctuary's assistive listening system, please switch your hearing aid to "T" or request headphones or assistance from an usher. Large print orders of service are also available by request to an usher.