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Today's offering, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) Line 3 Opposition, brings leadership and guidance to Minnesota's faith communities, mobilizing them to promote environmentally sound energy policies. If completed, Line 3 would cross hundreds of waterways in Minnesota and pass across hundreds of miles of treaty-protected land which Native communities depend upon. Unity's Act for the Earth Team partners with MNIPL. Donate online at <https://bit.ly/sundayoffering>.

# Down to the River to Pray

## Merging of Waters Family Sunday



Unity Church–Unitarian  
Sunday, September 12, 2021  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
[Livestream](#) at 9:00 a.m. only.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 12, 2021  
*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC	Selections by Peter Mayer
WORDS OF WELCOME	Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt
RINGING OF THE BELL	
CALL TO WORSHIP	Rev. Karen Hering
LIGHTING THE CHALICE	
*OPENING HYMN (347)	Gather the Spirit; Ahmed Anzaldúa, piano
*UNISON AFFIRMATION (494)	The prayer of our souls... by W. E. B. Du Bois
SILENCE	
EMBRACING MEDITATION	
MINISTER'S PRAYER	
*SUNG RESPONSE (123)	Spirit of Life; Laura Potratz, organ
STORY FOR ALL AGES	Rev. KP Hong
OFFERING	
OFFERING MUSIC	Holy Now by Peter Mayer
HOMILY	Down to the River to Pray
*MERGING OF WATERS LITANY OF REUNION	

**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.

**Leader:** Will the pitcher carriers come forward now and merge the waters of the world as sign and symbol of our unity.

\*CLOSING HYMN (1064, teal hymnal)

Blue Boat Home

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Water by Peter Mayer

We are molecules—two Hs and one O  
And in most places we are ice and we are cold  
But sometimes in the universe  
When we find a place like earth  
Where the sun is shining and the lovely breezes blow

CHORUS: We are water  
Rising up to the highest cloud  
Falling free in the rain come down  
Flowing over and underground  
We are water  
Drops in the river and the wide ocean  
Running in all directions then  
Coming together again

We are mist and we are waves upon the sand  
We're the ancient, holy place where life began  
We are tea and morning showers  
Home to sea horses and flounders  
Cleaning shirts and quenching thirst and  
Floating motor boats

CHORUS

We are mirrors to the sky  
We shine of all the stars at night  
The sun and moon and clouds as they move by  
If you find the time then here's what you should do  
Take your heart down to the shore and be renewed  
Climb into your sloop and ride us  
Leap into us, stand beside us  
We will turn your planet world the brightest shade of blue

CHORUS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Dennis and Carol Miller in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.