



All endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time.

~ Mitch Albom

Sunday, September 13th, 2026

"Be Like Water"

with Rev. Mary Gear, Rev. Sara Lewis, Troy Fisher & the OUUC Choir

We come together for the annual in-gathering ritual of Water Communion. Bring a small sample of water from a place important to you. The blending of our water symbolizes the creation of community as we begin a new congregational year.

At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well. Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance, onsite and online.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

Prelude

*Troy Fisher
(he/him)*

Morning Song

Congregation

Hymn #1000 "Morning Has Come"

Words & music: Jason Shelton

Morning has come, arise and greet the day!
Dance with joy and sing a song of gladness!
The light of hope here shines upon each face.
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

A new day dawns, once more the gift is giv'n.
Wonder fills this moment shared together.
The light of peace here shines upon each face.
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

Open our eyes to see that life abounds;
open hearts to welcome it among us.
The light of love here shines upon each face.
May it bring faith to guide our journey home.

Welcome

*Christine Parke
(she/her)*

Chalice Lighting

Christine Parke

"The Spirit of Water" by Rev. Katie Sivani Gelfand

Opening Words

*Rev. Mary (she/her)
& Rev. Sara (she/her)*

"A Spacious Welcome" by Rev. Shari Woodbury

Opening Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #347 "Gather the Spirit"

Words & music: Jim Scott

Gather the spirit, harvest the power.
Our separate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

(Chorus)

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more.

(Chorus)

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.

Gather in sympathy now and then.

Gather in hope, compassion and strength.

Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.

Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one.

(Chorus)

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.

Gather in sympathy now and then.

Gather in hope, compassion and strength.

Gather to celebrate once again.

Stories For All

Stories of Water Communion from Rev. Linda Hart &
Diana Larsen-Mills

*Christine Parke &
Rev. Linda Hart
(she/her)*

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Christine Parke

Offertory

OUUC Choir

“Liquid Spirit”

Words & music: Gregory Porter

Clap your hands now

Clap your hands now

Un re-route the rivers

Let the dammed water be

There's some people down the way that's thirsty

So let the liquid spirit free

The people are thirsty
'Cause of man's unnatural hand
Watch what happens when the people catch wind
When the water hits the banks of that hard dry
land

Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit

Clap your hands now

Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank
Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank

Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit

Get ready for the wave
It might strike like the final flood
The people haven't drank is so long
The water won't even make mud

After it comes, it might come with a steady flow
Grab the roots of the tree down by the river
Fill your cup when your spirit's low

Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit
Liquid spirit

Clap your hands now

Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank
Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank

Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank
Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank

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And fill your water tank

Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank
Dip down and take a drank
And fill your water tank

Liquid spirit
Spirit!

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Mary

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Mary

Musical Response

OUUC Choir

“Soul Spring”

Words & music: Kathleen Tracy

Where do you go to find
The spring where your soul drinks deep?
Tell me, is the water there bitter or sweet?
Tell me, is the water there bitter or sweet?

Does the water restore your heart?
Does it fill you up at the center
So that something of your essence
Flows out to this thirsty world?
So that something of your essence
Flows out to this thirsty world?

Where do you go to find
The spring where your soul drinks deep?
Tell me, is the water there bitter or sweet?
Tell me, is the water there bitter or sweet?

Reading

Christine Parke

“Reclaiming Faith” by Rev. Jennifer Butler,

Homily: Be Like Water

Rev. Mary

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Water Communion Ritual

*Rev. Mary &
Rev. Sara*

Closing Hymn

Congregation

“Coming Home”

Words & music: Shari Woodbury, arr. Yuki Kumamoto

I return to myself,
Here where I belong.
I am coming home.
Like a bird to its nest,
Like a river to the ocean,
I am coming home.

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary

“Having Faith in the First Step” by Rev. Scott Tayler

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection Questions:

1. What did your water symbolize today?
 2. How might you "be like water?"
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There is no after service forum today, forums will return next Sunday on September 20th.

Next Sunday, September 20th, 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

““Emergence & Change” with Rev. Mary

We begin our spiritual focus for the year by exploring how we can use our power, build trust, and navigate change in these historic times.

After-Service Forum at 12:15: 2026-27 Themes and Plans

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for September and October is Pizza Klatch:

Pizza Klatch is a support group for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies that is held in classrooms during lunchtime at participating local high schools, run by two trained adult co-facilitators who are members of the LGBTQ+ community or allies. The Mission of Pizza Klatch is to foster resilience in LGBTQ+ youth and create a safe and positive school experience through support, education and empowerment. The group's values include inclusiveness, continuing communication, community building, safety, and youth leadership."

If you write a check, please note "PLEDGE" if it is a pledge payment. All other donations in the basket will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to: 2306 East End St NW, Olympia, WA 98502
 - Donate online at: <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>
 - Donate by text: Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel
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Please join us today at 3:00pm for a wonderful concert. The piano trio Musicorum Medicorum will be in concert here in the Sanctuary. This amazing ensemble was featured on our June 28th Music Service.

The OUUC Choir has begun singing together again on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the sanctuary. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, we would love to have you raise your voice together with ours. If you have any questions please talk to our Music Director Troy after the service.

Thursday Community Dinners have resumed! Come to enjoy food and fellowship at 5:30, then activities at 6:30. We hope to see you there!

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:
<https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>