



First Congregational United Church of Christ October 1, 2023



Cascade Falls by Rev. Enno K. Limvere

4th Sunday of the Season of Creation

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: John Kerns Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Ann Russ Liturgist: Carol Winter

Greeter: Usher:

Coffee-Hour Host: Linda Noble

Gathering Music
Words of Welcome
Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Earth Prayer by Ishpriya R.S.C.J.)

People who hike beside rivers: **O Lord, one tiny bit of water on the palm of my hand. I bring it to you and with it I bring the whole ocean.**

People who swim: **This tiny drop has the power to ease the burning thirst of men, when spread upon the earth, to give life to the seed and the future harvest.**

People who canoe or kayak: **when poured on the fire to quench the blaze, a tiny drop of water can cleanse the whole of my impurity when blessed by your forgiveness.**

People who find peace beside rivers: **But, O Lord, more than all this, this tiny drop of water passed over my head is the symbol of my birth in you.**

Opening Hymn #478 I've Got Peace Like a River ([click here](#))

Blessing of the Water of Lake Superior

One: Lake Superior is fed by over 200 rivers. The largest include the Nipigon River, the St. Louis River, the Pigeon River, the Pic River, the White River, the Michipicoten River, the Bois Brule River and the Kaministiquia River. Lake Superior is home to about 80 species of fish, including carp and varieties of trout, salmon, and perch. Lake Superior contains nearly 70 million diporeia (shrimplike creatures) with a total biomass greater than that of the human population in the entire Lake Superior basin. Lake Superior is home to many species of birds, including varieties of hawks, eagles, loons, owls, and woodpeckers. There is a small population of endangered whooping cranes on the lake's north shore, one of only two crane species in North America. Migrating birds of prey funnel down Lake Superior's north shore in great numbers each fall. On a single day, at Duluth's Hawk Ridge, as many as 100,000 birds of prey might pass by.

All: Bless all rivers that feed Lake Superior, gitchi-gami, to refresh and renew the waters and all life. Bless all that lives and moves in, above, and around this body of water.

Pouring the Water

Sung Response – Water Cycle by the Bazillions

Verse 1

The clouds swell up and then let go
Rain or hail or sleet or snow
That's precipitation
Then all that water collects and waits
In puddles, oceans, seas and lakes
That's accumulation

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Chorus

Round and round it goes
The viaduct down below
The plants need it to grow
And when I wash my clothes
Like a wheel that rolls
It might go fast or slow
From mountain tops and over rocks
It never stops the water cycle goes

Verse 2

The sun makes water rise up high
It becomes a gas or a cloudy sky
That's evaporation
When the sky gets cold and then
The clouds turn into water again
That's condensation

Chorus

Bridge

Without you where would I ski?
Without you nothing's in my tea
Without you there wouldn't be chicken soup or mac & cheese
Without you Niagara Falls is nothing but a big stone wall
Without you where would I be?
You're 62% of me

Chorus 2

Round and round it goes
The viaduct down below
The plants need it to grow
And when I wash my clothes
Like a wheel that rolls
It might go fast or slow
From mountain tops and over rocks
From winter snow to spring raindrops
And it's at work around the clock
It never stops the water cycle goes

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

Looking Glass River by Robert Lois Stevenson

Smooth it glides upon its travel,
Here a wimple, there a gleam –
O the clean gravel!
O the smooth stream!

Sailing blossoms, silver fishes,
Pave pools as clear as air –
How a child wishes
To live down there!

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We can see our coloured faces
Floating on the shaken pool
Down in cool places,
Dim and very cool;

Till a wind or water wrinkle,
Dipping marten, plumping trout,
Spreads in a twinkle
And blots all out.

See the rings pursue each other;
All below grows black as night,
Just as if mother
Had blown out the light!

Patience, children, just a minute –
See the spreading circles die;
The stream and all in it
Will clear by-and-by.

Passing of the Peace

Hymn Water - Written by John Lawyer, 2013 Deaf Fish Music Company

Verse 1

Is it a trick of the light or is it only my imagination
What a beautiful sight could this be my destination
But who am I fooling this could never be true
Things would be so much different if only I knew

Chorus 1

Water under the bridge, Water under the door
Sometimes I forget, Just what the water is for

Verse 2

What did I know I was only a kid
Lucky for me we can all forget and forgive
But who am I now and what do I know
And why am I feeling at the end of my rope

Chorus 1

Solo

Verse 3

Where are you now where were you then
Can we just hang it up and start all over again
You take the wheel I can't do this alone
I'm tired of driving let's just turn it around and go home

Chorus 2

Water under the bridge, Rising up through the floor
Sometimes I forget, Just what the water is for

Chorus 3

Water under the bridge, I'll open the door
Let the waters wash over me, Show me what the water is for

Tag

Come and wash over me, show me what the water is for

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Psalm 46 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."

11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

2nd Scripture Revelation 22:1-5 (Common English Bible)

Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb **2** through the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree's leaves are for the healing of the nations. **3** There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** Night will be no more. They won't need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always.

Children's Message Water is Life

Choir Anthem River by Bill Staines

Message River of Life

Musical Reflections

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Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven and all creation, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, for water, soil, and air.
All living beings your love declare. Amen*

Closing Hymn #597 Shall We Gather at the River ([click here](#))

Benediction

Sending Music



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Opening Hymn #478 I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got river in my soul

2. I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.
I've got fountain in my soul.

3. I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got ocean in my soul.

4. I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor,
I've got faith like an anchor, in my soul.
I've got anchor in my soul.

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Closing Hymn #597 Shall We Gather at the River

1. Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

2. On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day. [Refrain]

3. As we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace. [Refrain]

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Robert Lowry. 1864; alt. l
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