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# Introduction:

Sharing Our Faith is a program of the Canadian Unitarian Council. It encourages greater associational awareness in our congregations, the fostering of relationships, and a sense of community and connection among and between our member congregations and communities.

Each year, the CUC encourages all congregations to hold a Sharing Our Faith service and take up a special collection. The collection is administered by the CUC and given directly back in the form of grants to congregations applying for projects they may otherwise not afford to undertake, and which enhance ministry, growth and/or outreach for that congregation and for the Unitarian and Universalist movement

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we seek to be actively engaged, to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society. This aspiration for Canadian Unitarian Universalism was affirmed at the CUC Annual General Meeting in May of 2016. Arising from the foundational theology of our second principle, “justice, equity and compassion in all human relations”, this aspiration asks us to live this principle through action and social justice.

The theme of the 2019 Sharing Our Faith package is water justice. Knowing that we are a national religious organization and that each region within our great nation has its own specific justice issues, we decided to broaden our understanding of justice issues allowing the theme of water to hold all of this diversity. The CUC will focus its social justice work on water for the next two years.

This package was created by Ben Robins, Intern Minister at First Unitarian Church of Hamilton and Danielle Webber, Consulting Minister in Kelowna BC. It is supported by material from Canadian UU ministers and individual Unitarians.

This package is offered for use by congregations as they plan their Sharing Our Faith services. It is the hope that as congregations create their worship service, they will remember others are using the same resource package and that the connections and relationships between congregations and communities will be strengthened.

Where an asterisk (\*) is displayed after the name of a writer, it indicates that he or she is a Canadian or has served a Canadian congregation as their minister.

If you have any questions about this package, the program, or would like to apply for a Sharing Our Faith grant, please contact us at sharing-our-faith@cuc.ca.

We hope that this compilation will be a valuable aid in preparing your Sharing Our Faith service.

# Activities

## How Can I Be Like Water? - Grand River Unitarian

During the service, ask people to turn to their neighbor or form small groups to answer the question “How can I be like water?”

# 

# Songs and Music

#1074 Turn the World Around

Down to the River to Pray

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbgfQ48hWuY>

Water is Life (Mni Wičoni) by Sara Thomsen

Listen here: [https://echoesofpeace.org/track/1112891/water-is-life-mni-wiconi](http://echoesofpeace.org/track/1112891/water-is-life-mni-wiconi)

The Tide is Rising by Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman and Yotam Schachter

<http://www.rabbishoshana.com/the-tide-is-rising>

Holy Waters by Jason Shelton

Found Here: <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/music/holy-waters>

Water Song

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks5IIzYX3t8>

The opening quote in the video is by Josephine Mandamin, one of the creators of the Mother Earth Water Walks.

# Opening Words and Chalice Lightings

## The Tao of Water from the *Tao te Ching*

Nothing in the world

is as soft and yielding as water;

Yet for dissolving the hard and inflexible,

nothing can surpass it.

The soft overcomes the hard;

the gentle overcomes the rigid.

Everyone knows this is true,

but few can put it into practice.

## Honouring Water by Rev. Fiona Heath\*

Here we are together.

The people of the chalice.

Gathering in the light of the flame.

Here we are together.

Returning to our religious home.

Choosing once more this community of spirit.

Here we are together.

Carrying our joys and sorrows.

Reminded that we are not alone.

Here we are together.

Returning to the source of spirit.

Honouring water, the source of life.

Let us be joyful as we begin again.

Come, let us celebrate together.

## Blessing for Ingathering by Rev. J. P. Rodela\*

Dive deeply into the sweetness,

The sweetness of water memories,

The sweetness of the spirit,

Drink deeply from these streams without and herein.

Whether the moon-guided water of the tides or the jet-pushed water in the hot-tub,

Whether the tap water in the half-filled glass,

Or the rain water tapping on the glass of the window pane,

Whether the water fueling the cells of this, my body, your body, our collective body of humanity,

Or the water of the spirit filling my senses, fulfilling my dreams with streams of inspiration –

Water – all this precious substance –pure and clear,

Taking on the hues of its experience,

Culling from soil and sand its own peculiar creature comforts,

Formless and timeless,

Curling itself around any vessel, shift-shaper, girdling the earth, mother and father of all, cradle of creation.

Our memories are as water,

Filling and fulfilling,

Beckoning and becoming,

May this communion, this annual confluence of our experiences,

Serve as a symbol of our commitment as a congregation,

To learn together and laugh together

To pray together and play together,

Dive in deep, the water’s sweet,

Come, drink in this sea of a congregation,

Come, drink in this ocean of compassion and commitment. May it be so.

# 

# Challenge and Inspiration

## Be Like Water by Kendra Ford

run deep run clear

fill any space to its own dimensions

respond to the moon, to gravity

change colors with the light

hold your temperature longer than the surrounding air

take the coast by storm

go underground

bend light

be the one thing people need, even when they’re fasting

eat boulders,

quietly be a universal solvent

## Blending of the Waters by Rev. Dennis Hamilton (adapted by Rev. Norm Horofker)

There is new water, formed in the atmosphere daily, and there is old water,

water as old as the earth, water from which life has evolved over the eons. This is the

stream of life from which all life flows.

All people are connected by this stream, for it runs through our veins and courses through

the stems and leaves of plants.

It is the symbol of the cleansing power of forgiveness and the faithful promise of healing

love.

It is the symbol and the reality of the oneness that unites humankind and all life.

May our separate waters join into one sacred stream as we add our lives into the stream of

living souls who live out love, work for justice, and hunger for peace.

# 

# Time for All Ages

## Higgins: A Drop with a Dream by Rev. Christopher Buice

A drop of water named Higgins wants to make a difference in the world. Despite the disbelief and even derision of the other drops of water, Higgins takes action, inspiring all to action. <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/higgins>

## Tiddalik: The Frog Who Drank The Ocean

This is an indigenous Australian tale about a greedy frog named Tiddalik who drinks all the water in the world, causing environmental destruction. The other animals guess that they can get Tiddalik to release the water by making him laugh. Silly escapades don’t work. Corny jokes don’t work. Finally, one version of the story has it that a dancing eel slips off of Tiddalik’s head and slides down his back, accidentally tickling him on the way down, making him laugh. The water comes gushing out.

Here’s more background on the tale: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiddalik>

Here’s one version, a bit long: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CzWkvIr8Hw>

Submitted by storytellers Lynn Torrie and Diane Bosman

# Aspirations, Meditations and Readings

## Water Meditation by Rev. Frances Deverell\*

*Play a tape of wave sounds on a beach in the background*.

Please make yourself feel comfortable. Relax. Breathe Deep. In and Out. In and out . Allow your mind to float. Imagine that you are suspended and cradled by water. Warm water. Warm, soft, wet, soothing, relaxed, effortless, floating, supported, protected in water. Like the womb. It is natural. Safe. A cocoon. You are suspended in water, and you are water. The water can move from within you into the water around you and from around you, into you. A constant exchange of fluids until you cannot make the separation between yourself and the water.

Now, reach your imagination out into the whole world. Feel your connection with all the waters in the world flowing into each other. Listen to the waves crashing on the rocks, beating in rhythm, cycles, tides, eb and flow, eb and flow, lapping up on the sandy beach. Listen to the brooks, rivers, creeks streams, bubbling roaring swishing, splashing, swooshing, trickling, singing, down, down, always down, above and below the ground, always down, towards river, through lakes, and into larger rivers, towards the sea.

Travel to the still waters….puddles, sloughs, swamps, lakes, muddy, murky, smelly, thick with weeds, reeds, seaweeds, and lily pads, teeming with life. Water. Salt. Fresh. Ice.

Frost. Hoarfrost. Hail. Snow. Fog. Steam. Mist. Rain. Drizzle. Water. With no form of its own. It fits itself to every vessel. Flexible. Yielding. Soft.

Yet all powerful. Strong enough to wear down mountains into sand. Water. The great enigma. The great ocean womb. Generator of all life. Yet also destroyer. Transformer. Change agent. Rots. Warps. Curls. Devours.

Washes. Cleanses. Baptises. Purifies. Washes away dirt. And washes away sins. Let the water flow through you. In and out. In and out. Feel your connection to this source of all life. Source of transformation. You are the water. The water is you. The water is a blessing.

*Tape continues a little longer.*

## After The Rain by Wendy Luella Perkins\*

(c) 2017 This reading can also be sung: [tinyurl.com/wendyluella](http://tinyurl.com/wendyluella)

Oh you gotta get back, to what is true

The water and the wind

And the sky grey-blue

The sky grey-blue

Silhouette of a crane

The smell of the earth

After the rain

Get out of your house

Get out of your car

Get outside, and find where you are

Cause where you are

Is the air you breathe

It's the water you drink

It's the food you eat

Take off your shoes

Take off your socks

And feel your weight

On some ancient rocks

Some ancient rocks

Sit on the stone

And feel the wonder

Of our blue-green home

Turn off your screens

Turn off your lights

And get outside, in the middle of the night

In the middle of the night

Stare at the stars

And feel the wonder

Of how small you are

Cause we gotta get back, to what is true

The water and the wind

The sky grey-blue

The sky grey-blue

Silhouette of a crane

The smell of the earth, after the rain

The smell of the earth, after the rain

## This Is All by Adin Chambers

“I thought how lovely and how strange a river is.

A river is a river, always there,

and yet the water flowing through it

is never the same water and is never still.

It’s always changing and is always on the move.

And over time the river itself changes too.

It widens and deepens as it rubs and scours, gnaws and kneads, eats and bores its way through the land.

Even the greatest rivers- the Nile and the Ganges,

the Yangtze and the Mississippi, the Amazon

and the great grey-green greasy Limpopo

all set about with fever trees

-must have been no more than trickles and flickering streams before they grew into mighty rivers.

Are people like that? I wondered. Am I like that?

Always me, like the river itself,

always flowing but always different,

like the water flowing in the river,

Sometimes walking steadily along andante,

sometimes surging over rapids furioso,

sometimes meandering with hardly any visible movement tranquilo, lento, pianissimo,

Sometimes gurgling giacoso with pleasure,

sometimes sparkling brillante in the sun,

sometimes lacrimoso,

sometimes appassionato,

sometimes misterioso,

sometimes pesante,

sometimes legato,

sometimes staccato,

sometimes sospirando,

sometimes vivace,

and always, I hope, amoroso.

Do I change like a river, widening and deepening,

eddying back on myself sometimes,

bursting my banks sometimes when there’s too much water,

too much life in me,

and sometimes dried up from lack of rain?

Will the I that is me grow and widen and deepen?

Or will I stagnate and become an arid riverbed?

Will I allow people to dam me up and confine me

to wall so that I flow only where they want?

Will I allow them to turn me into a canal

to use for their own purposes?

Or will I make sure I flow freely,

coursing my way through the land

and ploughing a valley of my own?”

**The Womb of the World by Rev. J. P. Rodela\***

(Inspired by a quote by Leonardo da Vinci)[i]

We all rest in the Womb of the World:

Water, the Life Conjurer,

Sometimes sharp and sometimes strong;

Sometimes sweet and sometimes sulphur;

Sometimes speed and sometimes still.

Water – mirror of our own ways of being and becoming in the course of our lives:

Water changes its nature according to place; and alters the nature of places it passes:

Raging or Reflective

Food or Flood

Green Roaring Tides or Blue Serenity

It sweeps ships down to drown; it quells a fire.

Leonardo Da Vinci said: ““In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes; so with present time.”

“In time and with water, everything changes . . . In time and with water, everything changes.”

---

[i] "Water is sometimes sharp and sometimes strong, sometimes acid and sometimes bitter, sometimes sweet and sometimes thick or thin, sometimes it is seen bringing hurt or pestilence, sometime health-giving, sometimes poisonous. It suffers change into as many natures as are the different places through which it passes. And as the mirror changes with the colour of its subject, so it alters with the nature of the place, becoming noisome, laxative, astringent, sulfurous, salty, incarnadined, mournful, raging, angry, red, yellow, green, black, blue, greasy, fat or slim. Sometimes it starts a conflagration, sometimes it extinguishes one; is warm and is cold, carries away or sets down, hollows out or builds up, tears or establishes, fills or empties, raises itself or burrows down, speeds or is still; is the cause at times of life or death, or increase or privation,

nourishes at times and at others does the contrary; at times has a tang, at times is without flavour, sometimes submerging the valleys with great floods. In time and with water, everything changes.”

## Soul of the River Sermon by Rev. J. P. Rodela\*

On a long drive home along the northern reaches of the Mississippi River,

feeling homesick and road weary, I realized with a start that I no longer craved an

ocean view; that I no longer lingered at the lakes, but my identity had shifted

toward those bodies of water as bridging waters -- I realized: I am the river.

The river-- making connections between these inbound lakes and out-faring

oceans.

I am the river -- at home in the north, at rest in the south, the influence of

confluence, the trials of tributaries, at home elsewhere and everywhere.

I am the river; I dwell in the in-between, border shifts, the chore of shoreline

changes;

here I am rapids,

there I am shallows,

mouth and shoal, headwaters,

embodiment of eddies and ornament,

obstacles shape me and currents propel me;

I am connection itself, overflowing, flooded with faith. . .. .

But it isn’t me, alone, but our Unitarian Universalist faith, too, is a river,

a long and winding water byway of life and love,

making fluid our imagined borders,

blending one shore into the next,

combining and creating new earth, grinding new ground,

generating islands, habitat for other life, life spawning and sustaining.

As Unitarian Universalists we flow in a river of life, a force greater than our

singular parts, delineated and different, but co-created, ever changing taking the

terrains’ shape and shape shifter, too.

This faith at rest and at confluence,

borders wide as sky,

a riverine road of soul.

And we, the river, travel the boundaries . . .

no passport of creed to transport or impede . . .

Our “U-Universe” is as wide as hearts can reach,

as large as hope can span,

as deep as faith itself. . . .

We are the river.

Like the river, belongingness is boundless –

as the river, tied to nowhere, we belong everywhere;

we belong to everyone.

## The Little Duck by Donald C. Babcock

(c) 1947

Now we are ready to look at something pretty special.

It is a duck riding the ocean a hundred feet

beyond the surf.

No, it isn’t a gull.

A gull always has a raucous touch about him.

This is some sort of duck, and he cuddles

in the swells.

He isn’t cold, and he is thinking things over.

There is a great heaving in the Atlantic,

And he is a part of it.

He looks a little like a mandarin,

Or the Lord Buddha meditating under the Bo tree

But he has hardly enough above the eyes

to be a philosopher.

He has poise, however, which is what

philosophers must have.

He can rest while the Atlantic heaves,

because he rests in the Atlantic.

Probably he doesn’t know how large

the ocean is.

And neither do you.

But he realizes it.

And what does he do, I ask you.

He sits down in it.

He reposes in the immediate as if it were

infinity – which it is.

That is religion, and the duck has it.

He has made himself a part of the

boundless,

by easing himself into it just where it

touches him.

I like the little duck.

He doesn’t know much.

But he has religion.

## A Riff by Mark D. Morrison-Reed\* (Voices from the Margins - An Anthology of Meditations)

I came as rain

a droplet from the sky

splashing

returning

to sisters and brothers.

A trickle

then a rivulet.

A cascading stream

following

the course of least resistance.

Pond

Rapids

Lake

River

Growing deep

and powerful

placid and powerful.

Flowing

into the ocean

and

a silence

that is not an end.

I came as a cloud shading those I loved,

dew that glistened and evaporated,

tears coursing down,

waters of joy and gratitude.

Life’s precipitation

can’t be captured

or contained,

only kissed.

# 

# Sermons and Material for Sermons

## Reflection on “The Vehicle of Life” and “Soul of the River” Sermon by Rev. J. P. Rodela\*

Water is to the world what blood is to our bodies . . .

Water is to the world what blood is to our bodies . . .

This was a belief held by fifteenth century artist Leonardo da Vinci.

Besides painting and sculpting, Leonardo was also a scientist, architect, engineer, musician and inventor. And flowing through all this expertise was Leonardo’s fascination with water. His deep interest and observation of rivers, and of the ways water flows into water, were “central to his work and thinking in many fields, including his art.” [i]

For Leonardo, water was the literal way our world and everything and everyone in it is interconnected. He wrote:

“The body of the earth, like the bodies of animals, is intersected with ramifications of waters which are all in connection and are constituted to give nutriment and life to the earth and to its creatures...We might say that the earth has a spirit of growth; that its flesh is the soil, its bones the arrangement and connection of the rocks of which the mountains are composed, its cartilage the [sediment], and its blood the springs of water.”[ii]

Leonardo observed: “…water is the vehicle of nature… without it, nothing retains its form.”

Reverend Jessica Purple Rodela recollects:

“On a long drive home along the northern reaches of the Mississippi River,

feeling homesick and road weary, I realized with a start that I no longer craved an

ocean view; that I no longer lingered at the lakes, but my identity had shifted

toward those bodies of water as bridging waters -- I realized: I am the river.

The river-- making connections between these inbound lakes and out-faring

oceans.

I am the river -- at home in the north, at rest in the south, the influence of

confluence, the trials of tributaries, at home elsewhere and everywhere.

I am the river; I dwell in the in-between, border shifts, the chore of shoreline

changes;

here I am rapids,

there I am shallows,

mouth and shoal, headwaters,

embodiment of eddies and ornament,

obstacles shape me and currents propel me;

I am connection itself, overflowing, flooded with faith. . .. .

But it isn’t me, alone, but our Unitarian Universalist faith, too, is a river,

a long and winding water byway of life and love,

making fluid our imagined borders,

blending one shore into the next,

combining and creating new earth, grinding new ground,

generating islands, habitat for other life, life spawning and sustaining.

As Unitarian Universalists we flow in a river of life, a force greater than our

singular parts, delineated and different, but co-created, ever changing taking the

terrains’ shape and shape shifter, too.

This faith at rest and at confluence,

borders wide as sky,

a riverine road of soul.

And we, the river, travel the boundaries . . .

no passport of creed to transport or impede . . .

Our “U-Universe” is as wide as hearts can reach,

as large as hope can span,

as deep as faith itself. . . .

We are the river.

Like the river, belongingness is boundless –

as the river, tied to nowhere, we belong everywhere;

we belong to everyone.”

Much like Rev. Jess expresses here, our Canadian Unitarian Universalist Congregations too are rivers. Singular in their diverse complexities and yet co-created by those who exist within them. Mergers and splits, offshoots and collaborations, our communities blend together and pull apart as we wind our ways through life. As we reflect on water today let us remember that we are part of a larger system of Unitarian Universalism. An “eco”-system that helped to create, sustain and connect our individual communities. With the mission to enhance, nurture and promote the Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist religion in Canada, the Canadian Unitarian Council acts like a river connecting the tributaries of all our faith communities. We now have an opportunity to directly engage with the other tributaries, with the other faith communities so connected, through this Sharing Our Faith service.

[ii]Water is the Vehicle of Nature *(*[*http://witcombe.sbc.edu/water/artleonardo.html*](http://witcombe.sbc.edu/water/artleonardo.html)*)*

## Memories of Standing Rock by Danielle Webber\*

As I went down to the River to Pray

Studying about that good old way

And who shall where the starry crown

Oh Lord Show me the way

Oh Children Let’s go down

Let’s go down, common down

Oh Children let’s go down

Down to the river to pray.

This was the hymn that Reverend Karen Van Fossan led us in during the prayer circle the morning of Sunday December 4th 2016, when the Reverends Shawn Newton, Lynn Harrison and I were at the Standing Rock Camp for a day of interfaith prayer. We had been invited to join this Day of Interfaith Prayer from the chief of the Oceti Sakowin Camp, a day of prayer that these Standing Rock Lakota and Nakota Tribes would not be

pushed from their reserve lands and sacred burial sites for the building of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

As I went down to the River to Pray

Studying about that good old way

And who shall where the starry crown

Oh Lord Show me the way

Oh Mothers Let’s go down

Let’s go down, common down

Oh Mothers let’s go down

Down to the river to pray.

Oh how that song resonates with me and the journey that I was able to take. Besides the obvious- that the several thousands of people gathered at camp Oceti Sakowin because they had been called to pray beside water, to pray for the safety of the water.

As I went down to the River to Pray

Studying about that good old way

And who shall where the starry crown

Oh Lord Show me the way

Oh Fathers Let’s go down

Let’s go down, common down

Oh Fathers let’s go down

Down to the river to pray.

I have spent the last several years working with Indigenous peoples and trying to build relationships with those closest to me. But one of the things I was told, by the first elder that I ever worked with, was that I needed to educate myself about our history as a nation, about the history of the nation or tribe that I wanted to build relationships with, and about the culture, and I have taken that work very seriously. My studies have lead me to some incredible pieces of history, things I am proud of, and things that break my heart, and everything in between. So needless to say, when the story of Standing Rock came to light, I spent a lot of time following it through the media. As well as time spent researching the details that the media would not tell us, or when the stories gave conflicting details. Studying and informing myself during this time – over the past few weeks, but also over the past several years became really valuable to me, it has

become part of my prayer. Becoming informed and learning about past wrongdoings has been one of the ways that I can work to create a better tomorrow. It is part of the way I invoke change in the world.

As I went down to the River to Pray

Studying about that good old way

And who shall where the starry crown

Oh Lord Show me the way

Oh Brothers Let’s go down

Let’s go down, common down

Oh Brothers let’s go down

Down to the river to pray.

At camp we sung this song over and over 4 or 5 times, replacing the word Children to many things – mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and so on. And this was a representation of all those who had gathered at the sacred fire in camp. There were men and women, old and young, Caucasian, Native American, African American, Indian, Asian; US citizens, Canadian, and further abroad, Veteran and Civilian. It was a recognition that all were there, and all needed to be there. That this fight, this peaceful protest was not just about the sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples of the Sioux Nation – but that this was about the earth, and all of her beings.

As I went down to the River to Pray

Studying about that good old way

And who shall where the starry crown

Oh Lord Show me the way

Oh Sisters Let’s go down

Let’s go down, common down

Oh Sisters let’s go down

Down to the river to pray.

As we drove home on Tuesday, I received a text message from my mom, of course we had been talking the entire time, staying connected so that they knew I was alright. But this time she asked me “was it worth it?” I felt surprised by that message – at no point during the trip did I feel like I had wasted time, or was grumpy about being away from my to-do list. That afternoon we stopped in Port Huron for lunch, and sitting at the table,

I mentioned the question to Shawn and Lynn. And then I said that there had been no time during the last 120 hours where I didn’t feel like I was living 100% into my faith, and my call to ministry. Even the long hours in the car, struggling to get work done in the back seat, reading until the headaches became to much, and driving when the sun set. I believe that the Cause of Standing Rock is a worthy one. I believe that the trip we took was a worthy one. And I believe that the energy and time spent on prayer and research, building relationships – with those nearby and those afar are all worthy. This is how we make a better tomorrow. This is how we can help bend the arc of the moral universe.

As I went down to the River to Pray

Studying about that good old way

And who shall where the starry crown

Oh Lord Show me the way

Oh Children Let’s go down

Let’s go down, common down

Oh Children let’s go down

Down to the river to pray.

# Words for the Offering

Today, our congregation is marking Sharing Our Faith Sunday. Sharing Our Faith is a program of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

It encourages greater associational awareness in our congregations, the fostering of relationships, and a sense of community and connection among and between our member congregations and communities.

During Sharing Our Faith services, the collection taken is in support of the Sharing Our Faith fund. This fund consists of monies collected by congregations at special Sharing Our Faith services during the year and contributions from a Foundation Fund administered by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. These funds are sent to the CUC to be allocated in the form of grants to congregations applying for projects they may otherwise not afford to undertake, but which enhance ministry, growth and/or outreach for that congregation and for the Unitarian and Universalist movement in Canada.

Since 2001, through the generosity of our congregations and members, the Sharing Our Faith program has awarded over $200,000 to congregations. Initiatives include:

* Support for part-time professional ministry
* Communication, publicity and increasing visibility
* Religious education and music programs
* Youth programs
* Commissioning of music for “Missa Brevis Pro Serveto, a mass for UUs"

Today’s collection is in support of the Sharing Our Faith fund.

Let your giving this morning be a true expression of spiritual generosity.

*After Collection has been gathered:*

Our relationship with the larger Canadian Unitarian Universalist movement is a gift. Our generous support today is an expression of our gratitude for the larger community and our hope that together we can serve the needs of our congregations, our communities, our country and our world.

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# Chalice Extinguishing and Closing Words

## Our Grandchildren by Randall Kahgee

(Former chief of Saugeen First Nation, opening quote in Maude Barlow’s Boiling Point)

Water is speaking to us, but are we listening?

We are all treaty people - a piece of us is dying.

Complacency and ignorance are no longer acceptable.

We have to be the voice for generations to come.

Our grandchildren will look back and ask,

Why did they not act to save our precious water?

I want to be able to look in the mirror

And know that I did my best.

## Thirst for Justice by Ben Robins\*

As we extinguish the chalice,

Perhaps feeling full of the spirit of love and justice,

Perhaps feeling a deep, watery connection to each other and to all,

Let our daily thirst for water remind us that water justice also needs our daily attention.

Let our common thirst for justice carry us forward, together.

# Fun Facts

## 39 Inches by Norman Horofker\*

Water is the perfect symbol

for the mystery and beauty

that we celebrate in our worship services.

Clear, colourless, odourless

yet so magnificently sensual,

tactile, refreshing and central to our lives.

It is renewed and recycled

by processes that are self-regulated by Mother Earth.

It falls freshly distilled on the face of the earth

500,000 cubic kilometers every year

An average of 39 inches of rain

Over the entire surface of the globe.

## All About the Water by Rev. J. P. Rodela\*

Canadians are all about the water. We have the world’s longest coastline nearly 244 thousand kilometers, one-fourth of the world’s fresh water, and two million lakes. The Canadian Coast guard has quite the job -- responsible for operating over ocean and inland waters of over eight million square kilometers. We’ve got the world’s largest lake within a lake, the world’s highest tides. It’s no wonder that Canada is the birthplace of the kayak and the canoe.

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# Further Resources

The Assembly of First Nations water policy areas <http://www.afn.ca/honoring-water/>

## News Articles

* How art and spirituality are defining the “Water Protectors” <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/how-art-and-spirituality-are-defining-the-water-protectors-1.4244645>
* ‘It's really very crucial right now': Great Lakes Water Walk focuses on protecting 'lifeblood' <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/great-lake-water-walk-meant-to-spread-awareness-open-to-all-1.4303050>
* Is it Business as Usual with Muskrat Falls?

<https://newjourneys.ca/en/articles/is-it-business-as-usual-with-muskrat-falls>

* Making Muskrat Right - a film, still in production - about the water protection at Muskrat Falls, Labrador - watch trailer here:

<https://www.mmrmovie.com>

* Water Walk to protest gas project pollution in Nova Scotia

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/mikmaki-water-walk-earth-day-alton-gas-1.4629448>

* Water: Canada’s Top Stories for 2017

<https://www.watercanada.net/water-canadas-top-stories-for-2017/>

## Art

* Christi Belcourt <http://christibelcourt.com/available-work/>
* Isaac Murdoch <http://www.postersforprogressives.com/author/Isaac%20Murdoch>

## Books

* Joanne Robertson, *The Water Walker*

The story of Josephine Mandamin walking around each of the Great Lakes, sparking a movement of water walkers.

* Maude Barlow, *Boiling Point: Government Neglect, Corporate Abuse, and Canada’s Water Crisis*
* Merrell-Ann Phare, *Denying the Source: The Crisis of First Nations Water Rights*
* Rochelle Strauss and Rosemary Woods, *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth*

Suitable for ages 8 and up.

## Movies

* Kayak to Klemtu

A First Nations girl kayaks 500km to testify at a water protection hearing.

View the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IYbOFe8hdE>

* Water Warriors

A First Nations community resists polluters.

View the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7geZzFvU44>

* Quantum of Solace

Water supply issues were the main theme in this 2008 James Bond movie.