

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs

Creating a community of love for justice and peace

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs is a Welcoming Community that embraces people of any age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, ability, language, or cultural background

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today, especially those who are visiting for the first time. Please join in refreshments and conversation following the service at the back of the sanctuary. We hope this community can be a place of meaning, inspiration, celebration and joy for you and your family



CHIMES AND WELCOME PRELUDE

Shall We Gather By The River

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE

Words of Christine Robinson (#448)
*We gather this hour as people of faith
With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.
We light this beacon of hope,
sign of our quest
for truth and meaning,
In celebration of the life we share together*

*OPENING HYMN

No. 100, I've Got Peace Like A River

Water Communion A Celebration of Confluence

Sunday, September 14, 2025

*OUR COVENANT

*Love is the doctrine of this faith,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,
To the end that all souls shall grow into
harmony with the Divine—
Thus do we covenant with one another and
love beyond belief*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 1058

*Be ours a religion which like sunshine goes
everywhere,
its temple all space, its shrine the good
heart,
its creed all truth, its ritual works of love*

A STORY FOR ALL AGES

Water Dance by Thomas Locker

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL

Words & Music by Thomas Benjamin
*For we shall go out in joy (2x)
And come back in peace (2x)
Blessed be.*

READING

Confluence by Kimi Floyd Reisch

REFLECTION

A Celebration of Confluence

BLESSING OF THE WATERS

Blessing by Lindsay Bennett Jacobs
Hymn: Holy Waters by Jason Shelton

WATER COMMUNION RITUAL

OFFERTORY

Offertory music: Oh River by Karisha Longaker
When you text to (518) 333-9140 or go online (uusaratoga.org/donate) to donate, please be sure to select the appropriate fund for your donation. Any donation made to Give Away the Plate fund during the month of September goes to SNACpack.

**STONES AND WATER RITUAL
SHARING OF JOYS AND SORROWS**
Response: *There is a love holding you.*

Closing Response:

*There is a love holding me.
There is a love holding you.
There is a love holding all.
We rest in this love.*

CLOSING HYMN

No. 145, As Tranquil Streams

CLOSING WORDS***EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE**

words of Elizabeth Selle Jones

*We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth,
The warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS**PASSING OF THE PEACE****Service Participants:**

Rev. Dr. Tom Chulak, Guest Minister
Linda Giancola, Worship Associate
Doretta Miller, Care Team
Art Holmberg, Board Member
Carol Ann Elze, Choir Director

Thanks to our host, Caffè Lena, our Hospitality Team and our Tech Team

OPENING HYMN No. 100, I've Got Peace Like A River

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

*I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul.
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul*

*I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.*

BLESSING OF THE WATERS

ALL: Holy water... holy water...

Rev. Tom: ...May these waters make us new
ALL: Holy water... holy water...

Rev. Tom: ...May these waters make us whole
ALL: Holy water... holy water...

Rev. Tom: ...May these waters make us free
ALL: Holy water... holy water...

Rev. Tom: ...May these waters make us one
ALL: Holy water... holy water...

Rev. Tom:...Of ocean, stream and shower
*ALL: Holy waters make us new / whole / free / one
Holy water... holy water...*

CLOSING HYMN No. 145, As Tranquil Streams

*As tranquil streams that meet and merge
and flow as one to seek the sea,
our kindred hearts and minds unite
to build a church that shall be free —*

*Free from the bonds that bind the mind
to narrow thought and lifeless creed;
free from a social code that fails
to serve the cause of human need:*

*A freedom that reveres the past,
but trusts the dawning future more;
and bids the soul, in search of truth,
adventure boldly and explore.*

*Prophetic church, the future waits
your liberating ministry;
go forward in the power of love,
proclaim the truth that makes us free.*