



Soul Matters

The Path of **Belonging**



Worship Research

September 2022

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About Online Permissions, Multi-Platform Support & Referencing Resources

Once again, we're supporting multi-platform worship by researching and noting material that is permissioned for online use. We will identify those online permissioned pieces with an asterisk by the title of the suggested resource, as well as with "permission notes" beneath the title information that document the source of that online permission.

A Reminder About Partial Texts and "Pointing not Publishing": To honor legal and relational standards, we do not include the full pieces of authors' works unless we've received explicit permission to do so. We want all subscribers to clearly understand that our worship packets are *research* packets not *publications*, which means we focus on "*pointing*" to where you can find fair use and publicly available pieces, rather than on "*publishing*" original writings and full resources. Our main service to you is theme-based *curation* and *research*, done in the service of saving professionals time.

A Note About Author Titles: Many of the authors we refer to are ministers. Some ministers prefer to be credited with their title "Rev.", others don't, and still others are fine either way. Our practice is to follow whatever practice was used in the source material we reference.

Calendar Connections

September 2022

Click on the name of each event for more information or inspiration.

Interfaith:

- [Rosh Hashanah](#) - Jewish New Year - Sept. 25-27, 2022
- [Mabon/Autumn Equinox](#) - Wicca - Sept. 22, 2021 (more [here](#) & [here](#))
- [Rumi's birthday](#) - Sept. 30 (1207)

Unitarian Universalist:

- Ingathering/Water Communion Ritual - Early Sept. - date varies by congregation
- The first meeting of [the Transcendentalist Club](#) - Sept. 19 (1836) (more [here](#) and [here](#))
- Universalism Day: [John Murray](#) preaches [1st sermon](#) in US (1770) - Sept. 30 (more [here](#))

National & Cultural:

- [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)
- [Suicide Prevention Month](#), World Suicide Prevention Day is Sept. 10
- [Labor Day](#) – Sept. 5 (*first Monday)
- [International Literacy Day](#) - Sept. 08
- [Grandparents Day](#) - Sept. 10
- [9-11 Remembrance](#) - Sept. 11
- [International Peace Day](#) Sept. 21 (more [here](#))
- [World Gratitude Day](#) - Sept. 21
- [Bisexual Pride Day](#), CBD, Bisexual Pride, and Bi Visibility Day - Sept. 23
- [Bisexual Awareness Week](#) - Week of September 23 ([here](#))
- Publication of [David Walker's Appeal](#) - Sept 28 (1829) (more [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#))

For Fun and On the Fringe:

- [Johnny Appleseed Day](#) - Sept. 26
- [Talk Like a Pirate Day](#) - Sept. 19
- [Hobbit Day](#) - Sept. 22
- [Banned Books Week](#) - Sept. 23-29 (more [here](#))
- [Battle of the Sexes](#) Tennis Match - Sept. 20 (1973)

Chalice Lightings & Opening Words

We are All Longing to Go Home *

Starhawk

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/community-means-strength>
[Permission Source](#)

We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been – a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community... a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.... A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free.

One Love

Rev. Hope Johnson

Found in [Voices from the Margins](#), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Morning Song

Patrice Curtis

Found in [BLUU Notes](#) (pg.), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Bring Me Home

Rev. Sean Parker Dennison

Found in [Breaking and Blessing](#), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Waiting

Rev. Marta Valentin

Full piece found in [Voices from the Margins](#), A UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)"

"Step into the center
come in from the margins...
no words need be whispered
to tell us we are one..."

Chalice lighting on Belonging *

Rev. Karen LeBlanc

[Soul Matters secured](#)

This isn't just a place of worship.
This isn't just a fellowship of like minds.
This isn't just a Sunday morning filled with
Spirit and topped off with coffee and cookies.
This is our church, our congregation,
where we are building Beloved Community,
where we are opening ourselves to each other,
where we trust and love,
rise and fall,
together.
This is where we feel safe,
this is where we know we are welcomed,
this is where we belong.
For this Gift and so many others, we light our chalice.

Black Church

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

Found in [Love Beyond God](#) (pg.14), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

A Place of Belonging and Caring *

Kimberlee Anne Tomczak Carlson

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/place-belonging-and-caring>
[Permission Source](#)

"And so, you began seeking a beloved community:
A people that does not put fences around love.
A community that holds its arms open to possibilities of love..."

To Unveil the Bonds that Bind Each to All

Mark Morrison-Reed

Full piece in Singing the Living Tradition, #580

...It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together our vision widens and our strength is renewed.

The Longing for Something More *

Rev. Gretchen Haley

Full reading at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/longing-something-more>
[UUA permission Source](#) & Soul Matters secured

"Every little thing that
breaks your heart
Is welcome here.,"

Belonging for Our Whole Selves *

Rev. Scott Tayler

[Soul Matters secured](#)

May the flame we now kindle
light the path back to our center,
back to that place of
belonging
to what is true
what is deepest within
what knows us even before we know ourselves.
And may our chalice
remind us that we are held
and welcomed whole,
without the need to hide
a single piece or part
of who we are.

We Gather to Draw a Wider Circle... *

Rev. Gretchen Haley

[Soul Matters secured](#)

In a world that feeds on moral outrage
We are here to cultivate moral courage
In a time that prizes picking sides
We gather to draw a wider circle
And in a culture that teaches us to get for what we
give
And to ask "what's in it for me?"
We come to practice generosity and to remember,
We are all in this together.
In the midst of life's bitterness,

we choose to sing, to give thanks,
to laugh together, and to be keepers of beauty
to offer a place of belonging for all who come
in gladness and in pain
to resist the push to the next moment, and the next
to slow down, to breathe more deeply, to feel a
part of something greater
for this hour, and in this space
let us be the change we wish to see
come, let us worship together.

We belong to each other... *

Rev. Gretchen Haley

[Soul Matters secured](#)

We are
keepers of hope
holders of memory
storytellers and song weavers
pulling on this thread
of truth,
this other march
of history
that might otherwise
fail to find its footing:
That life is
filled with kindness
bold beauty
courageous compassion
sacrifice
for the common good,
and a wide willingness
to embrace

neighbors and strangers
as kin.
We are here to do the work of hope
remembering the past
re-membering ourselves
imagining our most possible
future
for this life
that teeters
too often
on the edge of forgetting:
We belong to each other.
Bring all you are, every shadow and every light
Every hope, every fear
For this radiant hour
Come, let us be hope for each other
Come, let us worship, together.

Useful for Water Communion

River Call

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Found in [Voices from the Margins](#), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Meditations, Prayers & Blessings

Love after Love

Derek Walcott

Full poem at <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/love-after-love/>

Spoken version at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=n_3QbH_aNmc

“you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror,
and each will smile at the other’s welcome...”

Suggested transition into silence after reading: “Let us now sit in silence, as we listen, as we feast, as we meet and smile again at the stranger that is ourself...”

Know You are Not Alone and Discover the Way Our Voices Rise *

Rev. Gretchen Haley

[Soul Matters secured](#)

For this one moment
Know only that you are loved
That you are safe, and whole and loved
Know that you belong here
Here among us, here upon this earth
In your body
However tired, or broken
Your heart may be
Whatever fear, disappointment, anger
you carry
For this hour know you are not alone
Feel the presence of others
Surrounding you,
Breathing beside you, and with you,
Discovering together the way our voices rise, and fall together
In harmony, in hope
Claim here a resilient freedom
The choice for love, for light, to live with joy
and gratitude and praise
as a form of resistance

Suggested transition into silence: “And with this breathing of one breath, this sacred belonging, may we know enter into a time of silence, together...”

In Gatherings

Rev. Marta Valentin

Full piece found in [Voices from the Margins](#), A UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters “[Common Shelf](#)”

Your Presence Is Near *

Rev. Julianne Lepp

[Soul Matters secured](#)

We have not forgotten
In nature we seek you
In the whisper of wind
In the new green wood

Your presence is near

We have not lost hope
In the dust of the desert
In the rush of the wave
In the rise of the mountain

Your presence is near

We remember the cycle
In the promise of blossoms
In the dying leaves
In the bare branches

Your presence is near

Belonging

Karen Hering

Found in *With or Without Candlelight*, A UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)"

"What would the world be like...
if we let ourselves belong to our longings..."

Belonging Here *

Rev. Dr. David Breeden

[Soul Matters secured](#)

When it feels like lament
is the only sound and need
the only way of being,

here is that one warm
room where you know
you belong, you know is

waiting, open, ready.
Here is that place you
remember where you

are remembered in this
too cold world. This place
calls now, softly: Come

into the circle where you
know that you belong.

Beneath the Hustle and Bustle

On the stillness within, to which we truly belong

Rev. Angela Herrera

Full piece found in [Reaching for the Sun](#) (pg.32), A UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Beneath the streams of thoughts
That clambers and chatters...
There is a stillness...

We know her by many names. Truth. Love. God.
Wisdom...

She holds us in our grief and anger,
in our disappointment, our loneliness', and our
rebirth...

Music

Soul Matters Music Resources

In addition to the suggestions below, be sure to tap into our other sources of support for music leaders:

- 1. Monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:** We meet monthly. At the time of this packet's publishing, we have not settled on the exact date and time. We will share that monthly day and time in late July by email and on the SM musician's FB page. The Zoom sign in link will remain the same as last year: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5857099120>. No pre-registration necessary. Just come as you are able.
- 2. Soul Matters Music Support Facebook Page:** This support page is for on-going sharing among Soul Matters musicians. Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=soul%20matters%20musicians%20support>
- 3. Recordings of all of our monthly music brainstorming calls** are available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pHuVaUqAnNPIW9dis3Tz31B4eGxdxebI?usp=sharing>
- 4. Soul Matters Music Playlists:** We create two different playlists each month: one in Spotify and another in YouTube. This is intended to provide inspiration for our small group participants but might be useful to musicians. Click [here](#) for links to the Spotify playlists for each month. Click [here](#) to check out the YouTube playlists.
- 5. AUUMM (Association for UU Musicians Ministries) Online Database:** The wonderful leadership of the AUUMM have added our monthly themes to the AUUMM music database. It's a great way to get music suggestions from UUs all around the country. Access the AUUMM Music Database [here](#).

Suggestions For September 2022 - *Belonging*

from Soul Matters Music Resources Coordinator, [Molly J. Webster](#)

Hymns: Singing the Living Tradition - permissioned

All of the hymns listed below have permissions for in-person performance, live streaming and online recording/archiving, assuming you have legally obtained copies of the UU hymnals and unless otherwise noted. ([Permission Source](#))

12 - O Life That Maketh All Things New
100 - I've Got Peace Like a River (water communion)
128 - For All That is Our Life
188 - Come, Come, Whoever You Are
210 - Wade in the Water (water communion)
302 - Children of the Human Race
318 - We Would Be One
346 - Come, Sing a Song with Me
361 - Enter, Rejoice, and Come In
389 - Gathered Here
395 - Sing and Rejoice

Hymns: Singing the Journey - permissioned

All of the hymns listed below have permissions for in-person performance, live streaming and online recording/archiving, assuming you have legally obtained copies of the UU hymnals and unless otherwise noted. ([Permission Source](#))

1000 - Morning Has Come (must own hymnal)
1008 - When Our Heart is in a Holy Place
1013 - Open My Heart
1023 - Building Bridges
1028 - The Fire of Commitment (must own hymnal)
1051 - We Are...

Hymns: Singing the Living Tradition - permissions needed

The following permissions are needed if using in streaming/hybrid/online recorded services

134 - Our World is One World (music: Hope Publishing, One License)

175 - We Celebrate the Web of Life (permission granted if written credit is given as: "Lyrics by Alicia S. Carpenter, c. 1990; used with permission by the Estate of Alicia Carpenter)

298 - Wake Now My Senses (music: granted, harmony: Abingdon Press, One License)

300 - With Heart and Mind (permission granted if written credit is given as: "Lyrics by Alicia S. Carpenter, c. 1990; used with permission by the Estate of Alicia Carpenter)

323 - Break Not the Circle (words: Hope Publishing Co., One License)

347 - Gather the Spirit (words: make a donation on [Jim's website.](#))

354 - We Laugh, We Cry (words & music: donate to [Heritage UU Church in Cincinnati](#) choir or children's program)

358 - Rank by Rank Again We Stand ([Revised Lyrics Found Here](#), music: Oxford University Press, One License)

360 - Here We Have Gathered (permission granted if written credit is given as: "Lyrics by Alicia S. Carpenter, c. 1990; used with permission by the Estate of Alicia Carpenter)

Hymns: Singing the Journey - permissions needed

The following permissions are needed if using in streaming/hybrid/online recorded services

1052 The Oneness of Everything (words: make a donation on [Jim's website.](#))

1054 - Let This Be a House of Peace (words: make a donation on [Jim's website.](#))

1064 - Blue Boat Home (words & music: CCS)

NOTE OF CAUTION: Use this hymn with great care.

STLT#407, We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table

https://farfringe.com/stlt407-were-gonna-sit-at-the-welcome-table/?fbclid=IwAR0Wo0HCGjlhouzibvd1jcAj_ID1VfJttGIEJwo-KcoqIkItrtWXvrZG44&utm_source=pocket_mylist

Contemporary Suggestions - permissions needed

*If you are streaming your services/are hybrid, please note that all copyright permissions are your responsibility to obtain***

- *Bigger* - Beyoncé
- *Home* - Philip Phillips
- *Love Lift Us Up Where We Belong* - Warnes, Cocker
- *That's What Friends Are For* - Dionne Warwick
- *Take Me Home, Country Roads* - John Denver

Many of the above songs can be found on JWPepper, MusicNotes.com and the Chords/Tabs for most of the above can be found here:

[Ultimate Guitar](#)
[Ukulele Chords/Tabs - Free to Transpose](#)
[Chordify](#)

Choral/Vocal

All listed music can be found on [JWPepper](#) and can be located by following the link or searching by title.

- [Welcome One and Welcome All - Snyder - 2-part](#)
- [Homeward Bound - Marta Keen, Arr. Althouse - SATB, SAB, 2pt, SSA, TBB](#)
- [Into Belonging - Ryan Main - SATB, SSAB, SSAA](#)
- [Belong - Jocelyn Hagen - SATB](#)
- [We Belong - Pat Benetar, Arr. Mark Brymer - SATB, SAB, SSA](#)
- [Up Where We Belong - Cocker/Warnes, Arr. Brymer - SATB](#)
- [More Waters Rising - Saro Lynch-Thomason, Arr. Saunder Choi - SATB](#)
- [We Belong Together - Randy Newman - SATB, SAB, 2-part](#)
- [You Belong with Me - Taylor Swift, Arr. Brymer - SSAA](#)
- [Take Me to the Water - Rollo Dillworth - SATB, SSAA](#)

Instrumental/Handbell:

- [By the Water - Blevins - piano](#)
- [As the Water - John Williams - piano](#)
- [We Belong - Benatar- easy piano](#)
- [The Water is Wide - Arr. Ingram - 2 -3va](#)
- [Wade in the Water - Arr. Baker - 5va](#)
- [Coming Home - Radford - Handbells - 5-7va](#)

Music for Online Worship from UUA

The following videos may be used in online and recorded worship services by Unitarian Universalist congregations. The music that follows does not require additional permission for online use (see sidebar). However, be sure to provide full attribution to the composers and lyricists on your screens, not just verbally, for each piece that you incorporate into worship.

These videos are intended to lighten the burdens imposed by online worship. They should not be used to justify decreasing the wages or positions of professional music staff. ([Permission Source](#))

- ["I've Got Peace Like a River" \(Vimeo\)](#) (by Marvin V. Frey; #100 in *Singing the Living Tradition*) led and accompanied on guitar by Mark David Buckles.
- ["Open My Heart" \(YouTube\)](#) (words & music by Henry S. Flurry; #1013 in *Singing the Journey*). Performed by Susan T. Mashiyama. If you use this song, [please share that info with Henry Flurry](#) as a form of connection and affirmation.
- ["Woyaya" \(YouTube\)](#) (words & music by Loughty Amoa, Solomon Amarfio, Robert M. Bailey, Roy Bedeau, Francis T. Osei, Whendell K. Richardson, and Mac Tontoh; #1020 in *Singing the Journey*). Created by Paul Thompson (Music Director at the UU Church of the Palouse, Moscow ID). Please make a pay-what-you-can [donation](#).
- ["Lean on Me \(MP4\)"](#) (words & music by Bill Withers; #1021 in *Singing the Journey*). Created by the Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship.

- ["We Are Gathered" \(YouTube\)](#), whose text (to a familiar hymn) was written specifically for virtual worship by Amanda Udis-Kessler. Video by video by Jane Clabaugh. Please make a donation to [The Movement for Black Lives](#) or [Color of Change](#).
- ["We Are" by Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell \(Vimeo\)](#), performed by Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell and the UUA General Assembly 2020 virtual choir. Produced and Directed by Benjie Messer. Video Editing and Motion Graphics by Izzy Hyman. Audio Editing by Sam Plattner. Photos by Clint McKoy, Christopher L. Walton, Paul Becker, Janine Gelsing, and contributed by members of the choir. All audio and videos was captured by musicians in their own homes. Dr. Barnwell notes that if you've purchased scores for each of your singers, there is nothing else required. However, if you wish to use this piece in worship, please send a one-time fee of \$30 to Barnwells Notes, Inc., 2442 Tunlaw Rd North West, Washington, D.C. 20007.
- ["The Journey Becomes Our Home \(YouTube\)"](#) written and performed by James Underberg. [Make a pay-what-you-can donation](#) , and please write to James if you use this video; follow video link for address.
- ["Bring Me Little Water, Silvie \(YouTube\)"](#), a video created by Adam Podd and First Unitarian Church, Brooklyn, NY, for their water communion. Adam's PayPal ID: adampodd@gmail.com/Venmo: @adampodd
- [NEW lyrics for "Gather the Spirit" \(YouTube\)](#) (#347 in *Singing the Living Tradition*; music and traditional words by [Jim Scott](#); [new lyrics](#) by Pat Lamanna). If you use this or any of Jim's music, please make a love offering [on his website](#).

But Wait, There's (a bit) More...

Please see individual citation preferences/donation opportunities.

- From [The Justice Choir Songbook](#)
 - #38 - We Walk in Love
 - #43 - When We Are Singing
- As always - many, many thanks to Sharon Scholl for her ongoing generosity in the sharing of her talent with us all - here is this month's original composition as well as a few others that may work with your programming -
 - [Belonging '22](#)
 - [Community](#)
 - [Belonging '19](#)

Please visit [Sharon Scholl's website](#) for many more compositions and arrangements! She would love to hear back from you about any music you download and use. Please contact [Amanda Udis-Kessler](#) to reach Sharon. Amanda will pass along your messages and contact information.

Extra, Extra!!!

Read All About: [The Urban Voices Project](#)

Mission: Rooted in Skid Row through music, community, and openhearted inclusion of the most marginalized members of society, Urban Voices Project amplifies artistic expression to improve well-being, strengthen social networks, and inspire individuals to be their own best advocates.

Vision: To place music & singing community spaces in every medical and social service site across Los Angeles, to create community and a more comprehensive, holistic system for engaging individuals coping with the conditions of homelessness.

Stories For All Ages

Picture Books

Rivers By Rev. Christopher Buice, on Worship Web (possible story for Water Communion)

Even when it feels and looks like we are separate, our true belonging rests with each other. And when the more we forget that we are connected and belong to each other, the more likely it is to compete with and put each other down.

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/story/rivers>

Water Dance by Carole Lindstrom (Author), Michaela Goade (Illustrator)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIS6tGb9GxM> **Book:** [HERE](#)

We are Water Protectors** by Carole Lindstrom (Author), Michaela Goade (Illustrator)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD8shbwrK40> **Book:** [HERE](#)

Tico and the Golden Wings By Leo Lionni (author, illustrator)

We belong to each other, and we are different from each other. We each have our own memories, and each have our own invisible golden dreams.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9evuaJd1Xw> **Book:** [HERE](#)

Stellaluna by Janell Cannon

A story about belonging and not belonging. Stella Luna doesn't belong in the bird nest, and finally returns to being her bat self when her mother finds her.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mk8uL9o_f9w **Book:** [HERE](#)

Ira's Sleepover by Bernard Waber

We sometimes hide parts of ourselves so that we can belong. But Ira finds out that he can be his real self with his teddy bear, and he can share all the parts of himself with his friend.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iPaMjh8Kyk> **Book:** [HERE](#)

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Bullying robs you of a sense of belonging and can make you miserable. But finding a person who supports you can turn the tables and make others want to be as authentic as you are.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fkR7X4SevE> **Book:** [HERE](#)

Nerdy Birdy by Aaron Reynolds

It is lonely being alone. It's important to be a friend. It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8v2L_4f-nek **Book:** [HERE](#)

The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates, co-written with Juniper Bates

In this story, an umbrella makes room for everyone, no matter how tall, how hairy, or how many legs.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7JZ9rRIZ3w> **Book:** [HERE](#)

Wisdom Tales

- **Aesop's Fable:** [The Bundle of Sticks](#)
- **Japanese Tale:** [The Parable of the Long Spoons](#)
- **Hasidic Tale:** [THE RABBI WHO HUMMED AND DANCED](#)
- **African Tale of Unknown Origin:** [ONE BODY](#) (also listed in "From Long Ago and Far Away as from Greece in "The Complaint Against the Stomach" and as [Roman](#).)
- **Islamic Tale:** [Mullah Nasruddin Feeds His Coat](#)

Recommended Wisdom Tales from "[Doorways to the Soul](#)" by [Elisa Davy Pearmain](#)

(We've recommended this book as an addition to your library. Because of copyright issues, we can only share the story titles)

Story #25 - The Castle Door (I am thou - belonging to God, and bigger things)

Story #34 - The Difference Between Heaven and Hell (belonging to community)

Story #52 - The Question (belonging to your authentic self)

Message Moments

Don't just use books and stories! Here are a few message moments which could be used for multigenerational worship and are not centered around a picture book.

Rainstorm Sound Chorus

Here's a popular water-related sound chorus to use for a Water Communion Service. It really sounds like a rainstorm!

The Spirit of Ubuntu - belonging in community

"Africans have a thing called ubuntu. It is about the essence of being human, it is part of the gift that Africa will give the world. It embraces hospitality, caring about others, being willing to go the extra mile for the sake of another. We believe that a person is a person through other persons, that my humanity is caught up, bound up, inextricably, with yours. When I dehumanize you, I inexorably dehumanize myself. The solitary human being is a contradiction in terms. Therefore you seek to work for the common good because your humanity comes into its own in community, in belonging." — Archbishop Desmond Tutu

From the blog of Jacky A. Yenga <http://www.jackyyenga.com/the-spirit-of-ubuntu/>

Trees That Talk to Each Other

Science is confirming what mythology and our Seventh Principle have shared, that we live in an incredible web of interdependence, that we do truly belong to each other.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-whispering-trees-180968084/>

Startull, the Story of an Average, Yellow Star - Skit From Connie Barlow of The Great Story.org

We belong to the great circle of life and death.

<http://www.thegreatstory.org/stardust-parable.pdf>

A longer parable in 2 acts, suitable for a multigenerational service or classroom. No rehearsal needed.

Sermon Seeds

Angles, Ideas & Twists To Get Your Sermon Started!

Don't forget to explore the small group packet for additional sermon seeds. It contains quotes and poems to enhance your sermon, as well as numerous sermon angles in the questions and the spiritual exercises.

Permissions Notes: In addition to the pieces we've noted as permissioned for online use (marked with an asterisk*), you can use the fair use sized quotes and fair use sized portions of longer pieces in your sermons/services. Pay attention to the hyperlinks we include within titles and authors' names; these hyperlinks provide the source material and direction for you to hunt down permissions on your own.

Readings: We do not designate pieces that can be used as readings before your sermon, however we do make an intentional effort to include a significant number of sermon seeds that are longer and can be used as sermon readings.

The Need to Belong

Article - How Biology Prepares Us for Love and Connection

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_biology_prepares_us_for_love_and_connection

Essay & Book Review - The Science of Why Our Brains Are Wired to Connect

<https://www.themarginalian.org/2013/11/08/social-why-our-brains-are-wired-to-connect-lieberman/>

Reflection/Reading - Bring Me Home, Rev. Sean Parker Dennison

Found in [Breaking and Blessing](#), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Belonging to Ourselves

Article - Finding Our Way to True Belonging, Brené Brown

<https://ideas.ted.com/finding-our-way-to-true-belonging/>

Article - Brené Brown On True Belonging, Azriel Reshel

<https://uplift.love/brene-brown-on-true-belonging/>

Quote - Brené Brown

True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness. True belonging doesn't require you to change who you are; it requires you to be who you are. —

Video - Brené Brown on fitting in as the opposite of belonging

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWZa3wm1Nns>

Book - Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone, Brené Brown

Review: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/author-brene-brown-social-scientist-new-book-braving-the-wilderness/>

Quote - [Toko-pa Turner](#)

Our longing for community and purpose is so powerful that it can drive us to join groups, relationships, or systems of belief that, to our diminished or divided self, give the false impression of belonging. But places of false belonging grant us conditional membership, requiring us to cut parts of ourselves off in order to fit in. While false belonging can be useful and instructive for a time, the soul becomes restless when it reaches a glass ceiling, a restriction that prevents us from advancing. We may shrink back from this limitation for a time, but as we grow into our truth, the invisible boundary closes in on us and our devotion to the groupmind weakens. Your rebellion is a sign of health. It is the way of nature to shatter and reconstitute. Anything or anyone who denies your impulse to grow must either be revolutionized or relinquished.

Quote - [Adrienne Maree Brown](#)

Belonging doesn't begin with other people accepting us. It begins with our acceptance of ourselves. Of the particular life and skin each of us was born into, and the work that that particular birth entails... From that deep place of belonging to ourselves, we can understand that we are inherently worthy of each other. Even when we make mistakes, harm each other, lose our way, we are worthy.

Video Poem - How to Be Alone, Pádraig Ó Tuama

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgZT6UJocRs>

Shadow Work and Bringing Our Exiled Parts Back into Belonging

Poem - The Guest House, Rumi

<https://www.thepoetryexchange.co.uk/the-guest-house-by-rumi>

Quote - [Toko-pa Turner](#)

Revitalizing these Lost Zones within our psyche is about looking directly at the damage, as we do with dreamwork, and stitch by stitch, bringing what has been torn from us back into belonging.

Quote - [Toko-pa Turner](#)

There is a special quality of stillness in a person who encounters their shadow wholeheartedly. Your body may relax in their company because it understands, in the subtle communications of their presence, that nothing is excluded in themselves, or you, from belonging. Such a person, who has given up guarding against the shadow, who has come to wear their scars with dignity, no longer squirms from discomfort or bristles at suffering. They no longer brace in avoidance of conflict. They carry a deep willingness to dance with the inconstancy of life. They've given up distancing as a strategy and made vulnerability their ally.

Talk Excerpt - On Rejection of the Feminine/Spiritual Self & False Belonging

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cu4X7-lCaEw&t=225s>

Video - Brené Brown on fitting in as the opposite of belonging

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWZa3wm1Nns>

Reflection - Black Church, Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

Found in Love Beyond God, page 14, A UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)"

"Bring your whole self... large and formal or shabby and small. Your voice is always welcome in this song."

Reflection - Sacrament, Rev. Sean Parker Dennison

Found in [Breaking and Blessing](#), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

The Path of Loneliness & Longing to Belong

Poem - It is all very well..., Rev. Rod Richards *

[Soul Matters secured](#)

It is all very well to speak of
an interdependent web of all life
and remind us that we are all
Connected. We are.
But there are times when the loneliness
Strikes so deeply that the only
Thing of which I am
Certain is that I am
a
solitary
being.
There are times when the only
piece of belonging I can feel
is
the
longing.
There are times when the interdependent web
feels like just a mess of cobwebs

in a basement
or an attic
of the abandoned house
where I live...
Times when the spirit of life and love
are just words written
in invisible ink
on a postcard to myself.
Wish you were here.

Be with me now.
Don't try and talk me out
of how I feel
with perfect theology.
Stay beside me
and carry my hope
until I am ready to
hold it
again and be
there for
You.

Quote - [Rachel Naomi Remen](#)

But it's our very wounds that enable us to make a difference... For example... Without my suffering, I wouldn't understand the suffering of others or be able to connect to them. My loneliness enables me to recognize the loneliness in other people, even when it's covered over; to find them where they have become lost in the dark and sit with them; and to know that just by sitting with them, eventually they will find what they need in order to move forward.

Quote - Michael Meade

Loneliness is not simply about being by oneself, but about being unable to communicate the things that truly matter to oneself.

Quote - anonymous

My friend is one who knows my song and sings it to me when I forget

Article - Friends of the Soul, Michael Meade

<https://www.mosaicvoices.org/friends-of-the-soul>

"...a true friend is not simply someone who is "like-minded," but rather someone who sees something unique and meaningful in us. This older and deeper sense of friend referred to someone who knows your inner-most self and truly cares for your soul. This deeper kind of friendship creates a shared sense of recognition, a true sense of being seen as who we are at the core of our being. It also gives a deep sense of mutual belonging. A person can have great difficulty sustaining a connection to their resilient inner self if they don't have friends who recognize and confirm that deeper sense of self... Ultimately, what stands against isolation and despair is the awakened soul; and what helps the awakened individual stay awake is the presence of genuine friends of the soul..."

Quote - Kim Culbertson

People think being alone makes you lonely, but I don't think that's true. Being surrounded by the wrong people is the loneliest thing in the world.

Essay - The History of Loneliness, The New Yorker

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/04/06/the-history-of-loneliness?utm_source=pocket_mylist

Book - Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World, Dr. Vivek H. Murthy

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07LFDNM9K/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Podcast interview with the author: <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/dr-vivek-murthy-and-brene-on-loneliness-and-connection/>

Article - A Solution for Loneliness

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-solution-for-loneliness/>

Reflection - let it cut more deep, adrienne maree brown

<http://adriennemareebrown.net/2013/05/26/let-it-cut-more-deep/>

The Call to Enable Belonging for Others

Blessing - A Blessing Called Sanctuary, Jan Richardson

Full meditation found at <https://adventdoor.com/2015/12/14/advent-4-a-blessing-called-sanctuary/>

You hardly knew
how hungry you were...
to receive the welcome
that invited you to enter
entirely...

But...this blessing
will ask you to leave...
because it desires for you
to become the sanctuary
that you have found...

Reflection - Listening for Our Song, Rev. David S Blanchard *

On the "song that belongs to us" and how others help us find our way back to it...

Full piece at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/listening-to-our-song>

[Permission Source](#)

"Our songs sing back to us something of our essence, something of our truth, something of our uniqueness. When our songs are sung back to us, it is not about approval, but about recognizing our being and our belonging in the human family..."

Xian Scripture - Luke 15.21-23

On the belief that we never cast ourselves out from Love's/God's belonging

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

But the father said, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one— and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate."

Poem - In Sweet Company, Margaret Wolff

Full poem at: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/thedivinefeminine/2012/01/in-sweet-company/>

We sit together and I tell you things...
You urge me into being.
You make room in your heart for my voice...
In one luxurious and contented sigh...
I am home at last.

Poem - Wandering Around an Albuquerque Airport Terminal, Naomi Shahib Nye

Full poem at <https://9musesnews.com/2013/05/05/poetry-wandering-around-an-albuquerque-airport-terminal-by-naomi-shahib-nye/>

Read by poet: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=59&v=HwDXJ50U22o

“...And I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and thought,
This is the world I want to live in. The shared world.
Not a single person in this gate—once the crying of confusion stopped
—has seemed apprehensive about any other person.
They took the cookies. I wanted to hug all those other women too.
This can still happen anywhere.
Not everything is lost.”

On Challenging the Belief that We Belong to Ourselves Alone (Belonging to the Interdependent Web)

Book - Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Wall Kimmerer

Review: <https://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/reviews/braiding-sweetgrass-indigenous-wisdom-scientific-knowledge-and-the-teachings-of-plants/>

Essay - Greed Does Not Have to Define Our Relationship to Land: On Choosing to Belong, Robin Wall Kimmerer

<https://lithub.com/robin-wall-kimmerer-greed-does-not-have-to-define-our-relationship-to-land/>

Quote - Robin Wall Kimmerer

Is the land a source of belongings, or a source of belonging?

Quote - [Inspired by](#) the words of Chief Seattle

This we know: the earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely strands in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Quote - [Jeremy Lent](#)

Our values arise from our identity. If someone defines themselves as an isolated individual, they will feel entitled to pursue their own happiness at the expense of others. Someone who identifies primarily with their nation will have no qualms about putting up barriers to prevent others from entering... And if you identify primarily with all life, you're likely to devote your existence to work for the benefit of all sentient beings... Our mainstream culture, forged in medieval Europe and rationalized by reductionist science from the seventeenth century onward, tells us to find our identity in separation... But that old worldview of separation has expired. It's not just dangerous, leading us to the precipice of ecological devastation and climate breakdown—it's plain wrong.

Quote - [Jeremy Lent](#)

Pervasive interconnectedness... [is] fundamental to the sense of identity that non-Western traditions foster. When members of the Native American Blackfoot tribe meet each other, they don't ask "How are you?" Instead, they ask "How are the connections?" Similarly, in Central and Southern Africa, a guiding principle for life is ubuntu, which is frequently translated as "I am because you are, you are because I am." In many Indigenous communities, the type of self-seeking behavior promoted by neoliberalism would be seen as a form of madness. Traditional Chinese sages similarly based their moral compass on the foundation of the interrelatedness of all life, the realization of which they called ren. Philosopher Cheng Yi declared that a person who achieves the state of ren "regards heaven, earth, and all things as one body; there is nothing not himself."

Quote - Wendell Berry

Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.

Poem - The Moment, Margaret Atwood

Full piece at <https://parabola.org/2017/06/07/nobody-no-one/>

"...No, they whisper. You own nothing...
We never belonged to you.
You never found us.
It was always the other way round."

Anecdote/Reading - The little wave, from Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

The story is about a little wave, bobbing along in the ocean, having a grand old time. He's enjoying the wind and the fresh air - until he notices the other waves in front of him, crashing against the shore. "My God, this terrible", the wave says. "Look what's going to happen to me!" Then along comes another wave. It sees the first wave, looking grim, and it says to him: "Why do you look so sad?" The first wave says: "You don't understand! We're all going to crash! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn't it terrible?" The second wave says: "No, you don't understand. You're not a wave, you're part of the ocean."

Quote/Poem - [David Whyte](#)

Your great mistake is to act the drama
as if you were alone... To feel abandoned is to deny
the intimacy of your surroundings. Surely,
even you, at times, have felt the grand array;
the swelling presence, and the chorus, crowding
out your solo voice. You must note
the way the soap dish enables you,
or the window latch grants you freedom...
The stairs are your mentor of things
to come...
Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into the
conversation. The kettle is singing
even as it pours you a drink...
Everything is waiting for you.

Quote - James Baldwin

We are all androgynous, not only because we are all born of a woman impregnated by the seed of a man but because each of us, helplessly and forever, contains the other – male in female, female in male, white in black and black in white. We are a part of each other. Many of my countrymen appear to find this fact exceedingly inconvenient and even unfair, and so very often do I. But none of us can do anything about it.

TED Talk - The new political story that could change everything (The Politics of Belonging), George Monbiot

https://www.ted.com/talks/george_monbiot_the_new_political_story_that_could_change_everything?language=en&fbclid=IwAR1gC9vWBvE6D_wo2YeFzb-KBHNRblzRyDWvFBNyVhNEGulotn-5n1g1ZR0

Quote - Wendell Berry

We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it.

Quote - Douglas Steer

The ancient question, “Who am I?” inevitable leads to a deeper one: “Whose am I?” – because there is not identity outside of relationship. You cannot be a person by yourself. To ask “Whose am I” is to extend the question far beyond the little self-absorbed self, and wonder: Who needs you? Who loves you? To whom are you accountable? To whom do you answer? Whose life is altered by your choices? With whose life, whose lives is your own all bound up, inextricably, in obvious or invisible ways?

Belonging & Place

Article & Book Review - The Loneliness of the Modern Nomad: what it means to settle down and love where you live.

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/loneliness_of_modern_nomad

Quote - [Wendell Berry](#)

we have not made our lives to fit
our places, the forests are ruined, the fields eroded,
the streams polluted; the mountains overturned. Hope
then to belong to your place by your own knowledge
of what it is that no other place is, and by
your caring for it as you care for no other place, this
place that you belong to though it is not yours,
for it was from the beginning and will be to the end.

Quote - [Wendell Berry](#)

Belong to your place by knowledge of the others who are
your neighbors in it: the old man, sick and poor,
who comes like a heron to fish in the creek.

Finding Home in Belonging to It All

Quote –John O’Donohue, *Walking in Wonder*, p. 170

Eternity is not an extension of time, but it is pure presence, pure belonging. When you are in the eternal, you are outside of nothing. You are within everything, enjoying the fullest participation There is no more separation. It is what the contemplative medieval scholars called the Beatific Vision....

Quote - [Mark Nepo](#)

When I live deep enough
there is only one direction.
When there, briefly,
the world overcomes me
and i feel a vibrancy in common
with all times and place

Book - *Eternal Echoes: Exploring Our Yearning to Belong*, John O’Donohue

Excerpt: “There is a lovely balance at the heart of our nature: each of us is utterly unique and yet we live in the most intimate kinship with everyone and everything else. Its more profound intention is the awakening of the Great Belonging which embraces everything. Our hunger to belong is the desire to awaken this hidden affinity. Then we know that we are not outsiders cut off from everything, but rather participants at the heart of creation...”

The Forces Tearing Our Country’s Belonging Apart

Quote - [Jonathan Haidt](#)

It’s been clear for quite a while now that red America and blue America are becoming like two different countries claiming the same territory, with two different versions of the Constitution, economics, and American history. But Babel is not a story about tribalism; it’s a story about the fragmentation of everything. It’s about the shattering of all that had seemed solid, the scattering of people who had been a community. It’s a metaphor for what is happening not only between red and blue, but within the left and within the right, as well as within universities, companies, professional associations, museums, and even families.

Quote - James Madison

The zeal for different opinions concerning religion, concerning government, and many other points...have in turn divided mankind into parties, inflamed them with mutual animosity, and rendered them much more disposed to vex and oppress each other than to cooperate for their common good
James Madison

Joke - In the same boat

Two people were out on the ocean in a boat.
One of them began drilling in the bottom of the boat, and the other, aghast said "What are you doing? Stop drilling!"
And the first person replied: "It's all right. I'm only drilling on my side."

Article - [How to Cultivate Belonging in a Divided Culture](#)

<https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how-to-cultivate-belonging-in-a-divided-culture>

Book - The Economics of Belonging: A Radical Plan to Win Back the Left Behind and Achieve Prosperity for All, Martin Sandbu

- **Related webinar:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPI9xW40DY0&t=23s>
- **Book Review:** <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2020/09/29/book-review-the-economics-of-belonging-a-radical-plan-to-win-back-the-left-behind-and-achieve-prosperity-for-all-by-martin-sandbu/>

Article - The Path to Give California 12 Senators, and Vermont Just One

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/01/heres-how-fix-senate/579172/>

Book - [Become America](#): Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility, and Democracy, Eric Liu

pushing toward an American creed that moves beyond both the white monoculture and the fracturing multiculturalism. He is always pushing toward a national story large enough to contain all the hybrid voices.”

On Our Bodies Not Belonging to Us

Song - Written by Abigail Bengson of [the Bengsons](#)

Abigail singing: [HERE](#) (adrienne maree brown singing and sharing it [HERE](#))

We will not

We will not

We will not be controlled

I am sovereign in my body

I am sovereign in my soul

Article - We’re Not Going Back to the Time Before Roe v. Wade. We’re Going Somewhere Worse, Jia Tolentino

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/07/04/we-are-not-going-back-to-the-time-before-roe-we-are-going-somewhere-worse>

From the article: “We have entered an era not of unsafe abortion but of widespread state surveillance and criminalization—of pregnant women [...] In the states where abortion has been or will soon be banned, any pregnancy loss past an early cutoff can now potentially be investigated as a crime. Search histories, browsing histories, text messages, location data, payment data, information from period-tracking apps—prosecutors can examine all of it if they believe that the loss of a pregnancy may have been deliberate. Even if prosecutors fail to prove that an abortion took place, those who are investigated will be punished by the process, liable for whatever might be found”.

Poem - My body is my soul, Mahamuda Rahman

<https://srhm2-cdn-1.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/03204227/My-body-is-my-soul.pdf>

Poem - This poem is like me, Jimena Cascante Matamoros

<https://srhm2-cdn-1.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/20163821/This-poem-is-like-me.pdf>

Video Poem - Women Deserve Better, Sonya Renee Taylor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nii526WF3qY&t=164s>

Report - Overturning Roe: Slavery, Abortion, Maternal Mortality and the Disparate Effect on Women of Color

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/6/27/scotus_roe_overturning_ignores_slavery_legacy

On UUism, Racism & Belonging

We Are Jazz

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer

Found in [Love Beyond God](#) (pg.8), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters “[Common Shelf](#)” Book

Webpage - Empowerment: One Denomination's Quest for Racial Justice 1967-1982

<https://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/racial-justice/history/engaging/46951.shtml>

UUA Resource - Widening the Circle of Concern

Overview: <https://uuhonolulu.org/blog/widening-the-circle-of-concern/>

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic>

Forum: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2RSbCD7vzg>

Sermon - Widening the Circle, Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bENRPGpk3eikfekpwiPyXn8x6q7sgsFw/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101245613595157190644&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Panel Discussion - Whose Faith Is It Anyway? A Black UU Theological Framework Discussion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLCH1tl_fmE

UU 8th principle background materials

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background-nav>

Talk - Dr. Takiyah Amin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBMVM0jg9CA&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Catalyst%3A+Moving+from+Busy+to+Balance&utm_campaign=Catalyst-August2018

“Dr. Takiyah Amin from the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism movement talks about her experience and where we are moving towards as a faith to build the world we dream about.”

Article - Othering and Belonging, Rev. Darrick Jackson

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/othering-and-belonging>

“Unitarian Universalism is my theological home, but it doesn’t speak to my black identity...”

Rethinking Belonging

Article - Distinguished and Singing, adrienne maree brown

<https://adriennemareebrown.net/2021/03/26/distinguished-and-singing/>

“right now, people are confusing identity with community, and finding no satisfaction in either place...”

Quote - Wendell Berry

A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves.

Quote - [Casper ter Kuile](#)

Who you affiliate with, not what you affiliate with, is the name of the game,’ explains one interviewee in this Moishe House report on engaging Gen Z by Danya Shults. Think Instagram influencers instead of denominations and single-issue campaigners over political parties.

Miscellaneous

Sermon Illustration - Rev. Andy Burnette

Video from minute 2:30 - 4:30: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HC2Mc-nHLk>

A great story and reflection on the ways we shut ourselves out of belonging by imagining/believing we are not worthy.

Find Additional Resources In Our Specialty Worship Packets

In addition to our “regular” monthly themed packets, we make specialty packets on a number of special Sundays and observances. You can check out all of those specialty packets on our website at:

<https://www.soulmatterssharinqcircle.com/special-worship-packets.html>

*For this month, you might want to check out the following specialty packet on the **Water Communion***

Recommended Sermons

Notes about 2022-23 sermon recommendations:

- **We mostly list written scripts:** In order not to undermine UU preachers who depend on live and online guest preaching income for their livelihood, we mainly focus on sharing sermon texts (and sometimes audio clips), but not videos. When, on occasion, we include a video sermon, it will be from congregations that have sharing those as part of their mission.
- **Permissions Secured:** All of the sermons below have received permission for your online use. Unless otherwise noted, they can be used for both live streaming and recorded services that are posted on YouTube or a podcast. **However, to be extra cautious and in good relationship, we ask that you reach out to the minister to let them know you are planning to use their sermon, also asking if they have any particular requests or guidance for how to do that.**
- **An Important Note About Editing:** If you want to make changes to the sermon for brevity or context, **you need to reach out to the preachers directly for such editing permission.** Contact information of each of the referenced preachers is listed after the list of sermons.

Long to Belong

Rev. Rod Richards

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/120YxTI6DkkI8wJBqzmZg-G9syXCYd3n/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101245613595157190644&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Deciding Not To Belong

Rev. Julie Stoneberg

https://peterboroughunitarian.ca/files/2019/10/Deciding-Not-to-Belong_191013.pdf

Whose Are We?

Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse

<https://uuwestport.org/whose-are-we-september-17-2017-video-available/>

True Belonging

Rev. Angela Herrera

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRY_FOdVLuQ

Be sure to follow the congregation's notes about use of sermons found at <https://uuabq.org/use-of-sermons-by-lay-led-congregations/>

Featured Preacher Bios & Contact Information

Rev. Rod Richards: <https://uuslo.org/our-minister>

Rev. Julie Stoneberg: <https://peterboroughunitarian.ca/people/julie-stoneberg/>

Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse: <https://uuwestport.org/mission-statement/about-our-ministers-2/>

Rev. Angela Herrera: <https://uuabq.org/our-ministers/>

Closing Words

Blessing

John O'Donohue

Full piece/closing at <https://www.lovemagazine.com/magazine/article/a-blessing-a-poem-by-john-odonohue>

May the frames of your belonging be large enough for the dreams of your soul... May you know the eternal longing which lives at the heart of time... May you allow the wild beauty of the invisible world to gather you, mind you, and embrace you in belonging.

You Are in the Story of the World *

Ean Huntington Behr

Found at <http://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/151355.shtml>

[Permission Source](#)

Cheered by Our Community *

Rev. Burton D Carley

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/5970.shtml>

[Permission Source](#)

Caretaking

Jill-Beth Veronica Sweeney

Found in [With or Without Candlelight](#), a UUA meditation manual & Soul Matters "[Common Shelf](#)" Book

Your great mistake...

[David Whyte](#)

Full piece found at https://onbeing.org/poetry/everything-is-waiting-for-you/?utm_source=pocket_mylist

...Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into the conversation. The kettle is singing even as it pours you a drink... Everything is waiting for you.

All Rivers Run to the Sea *

Kayle Rice

Found at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/all-rivers-run-to-the-sea>

[Permission Source](#)

For water communion

Support

Join the Soul Matters Worship Leader Support Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Join the Soul Matters Ministers' Support Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/719788338192570/>

Attend one of our two monthly online ministers' brainstorming groups:

First Tuesdays and First Thursdays of each month at 1pm eastern
with this zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

Attend our monthly online musicians' brainstorming group:

Will be decided and shared late July.

All meetings will use this zoom link to sign in: <https://zoom.us/j/5857099120>

Inspiration

Our Facebook Inspiration Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>

Our Instagram Page:

Find us as "soul_matters_circle"

Music Playlists:

Click [here](#) for links to the [Spotify playlists](#) for each month.

Click [here](#) to check out the [YouTube playlists](#).



Soul Matters

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