

UU Church of Columbia, MO
Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister

“Shaped by the River”
Water Ceremony
August 30, 2026

Welcome

Prelude – “The River” by Coco Love Alcorn – performed by Violet Vonder Haar

Calling the Directions

Chalice Lighting & Words of Affirmation

*Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law;
this is our great covenant:
to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

Hymn # 1007 – “There’s A River Flowin’ In My Soul”

*There’s a river flowin’ in my soul.
There’s a river flowin’ in my soul.
And it’s tellin’ me that I’m somebody.
There’s a river flowin’ in my soul.*

*There’s a river flowin’ in my heart...
There’s a river flowin’ in my mind...*

Centering Moment – Jamila Batchelder

Gathering the Waters – those gathered

Hymn — “A Water Hymn” by Milck

*Water be my teacher
water carry me
teach me transformation
take me to the sea
tell me how you break through rock
flow around what tries to block
water be my teacher
water carry me*

Blessing the Waters – those gathered

Song – “River Runs Outside My Door” by Bob Dyer – Performed by Violet Vonder Haar

Reflection – “Shaped by the River” by Molly Housh Gordon

Hymn #1046 – “Shall We Gather at the River”

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

*Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down.
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and a crown.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver, with the melody of peace.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

Stones of Joy & Sorrow

Joys & Sorrows Prayer

Offertory – “River of Happiness” by St. Dolly Parton – performed by Violet Vonder Haar

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General collection: Enter amount, with or without a dollar sign

Pledge: Enter amount, then a space, then the word pledge

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Closing Words – Molly Housh Gordon

Benediction

*Now on leaving one another,
may we give of hand and heart.
Let us share our benediction,
lovingly before we part.*

* Please stand or remain seated as you feel most comfortable.

Is there a way we can make our worship service or community more accessible to you? Let us know. Email the minister at minister@uucomo.org or call 442-5764.

Church Staff: Rev. Dr. Molly Housh Gordon, Minister; April Rodeghero, Church Administrator; Jamila Batchelder, Director of Religious Education; Violet Vonder Haar, Director of Music Ministry; Phylshawn Johnson, AV Technician