

Together In Harmony A Children's Songbook

Together In Harmony A Children's Songbook

Editing and Compilations by Elise Reichenfeld Artwork by Claire Pullen

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Building Bridges

Origins of the song:

A British Quaker named Elizabeth Cave discovered this song at a peaceful sit-in at a nuclear energy plant. She later sent the song to be published in a British newspaper, which spread the song to be heard by many.

Things to think about while singing:

This song has a theme of unity across any division and acceptance. Singers could relate this to their own experiences, and think of how they could "reach out."

Directly related UU principles:

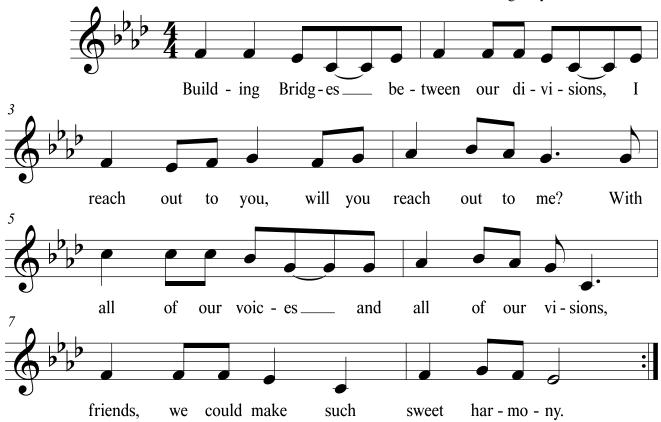
1, 2, 3 and 6

Performance suggestions:

This song can be performed as a round. The first time through could be only children, with the congregation joining the second time. To make a round, split the congregation in half and have one group start and the other group echo after the first line is completed.

Building Bridges

Lyrics by: The women of Greenham Common peace occupation in England
Music by: Contemporary English Quaker Round
arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



Come, Come, Whoever You Are Origins of the song:

The poem is attributed to a Persian philosopher, teacher, poet and theologian named Rumi who lived in the 1200s. Later, it was put to music by Rev. Lynn Adair Ungar, a Unitarian Universalist Minister.

Things to think about while singing:

This song holds a theme of forgiveness and acceptance. Singers can relate this to their own experiences and the feeling of being welcomed back, whether into your congregation or elsewhere.

Directly related UU principles:

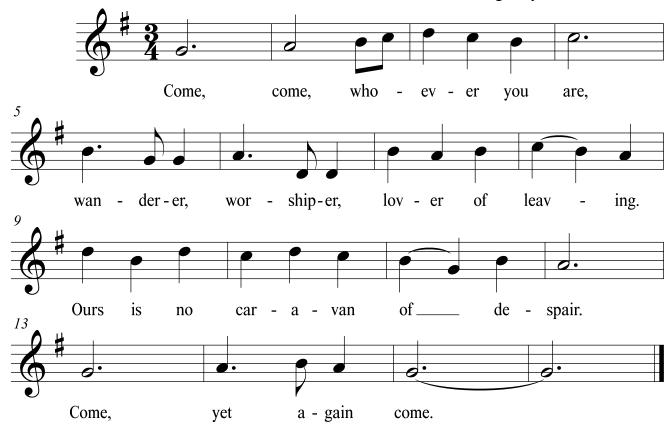
1, 2, 3, and 4

Performance suggestions:

This song can be performed as a round. The first time through could be children only. The next time the round will start with the whole congregation. Half of the congregation will start with the other half starting after four measures.

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

Music by: Lynn Adair Ungar Lyrics by: Adapt. from Rumi arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



Come, Sing A Song With Me Origins of the song:

Carolyn McDade wrote this song to open young minds to the welcoming values of Unitarian Universalism.

Things to think about while singing:

While singing, think of friendship, understanding and hope for the future. Think of acceptance of others.

Directly related UU principles:

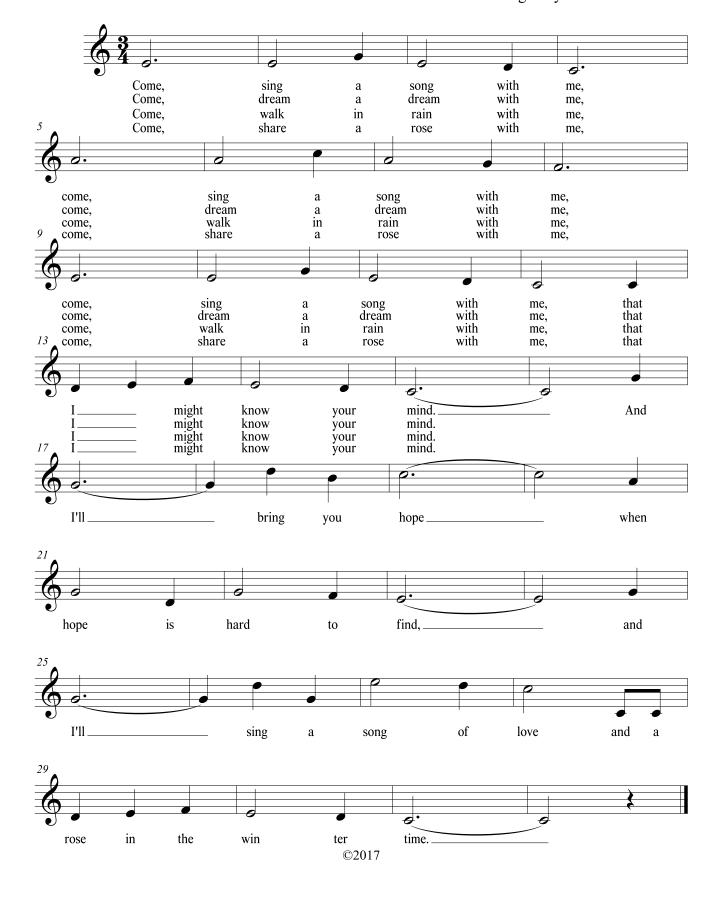
1, 2, 3 and 6

Performance suggestions:

This song is perfect for integrating children into the service. For performance, the first time through could be only the children singing, the second could be a few featured children, with the entire congregation joining for the last time through.

Come, Sing a Song with Me

Words and Music by: Carolyn McDade arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

Origins of the song:

Louise Ruspini based the text off of Psalm 100, and added music.

Things to think about while singing:

This song, while simple, speaks of welcoming and acceptance of others and to the world around you.

Directly related UU principles:

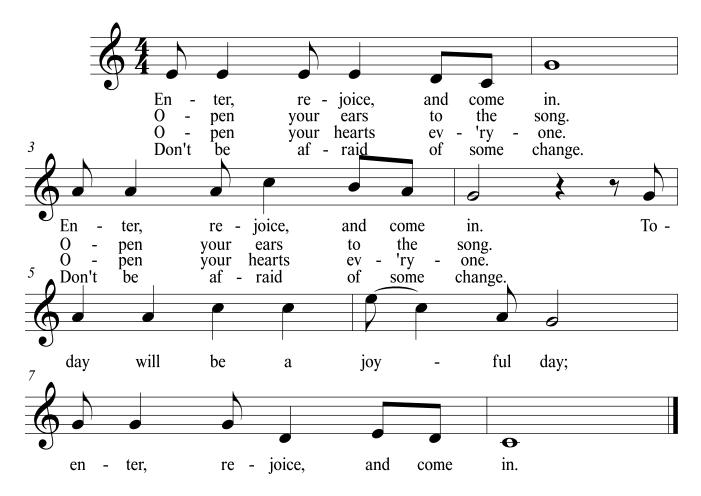
1, 3, and 6

Performance suggestions:

This song would be perfect for the beginning of a service or gathering to bring people together.

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

Words and Music by: Louise Ruspini arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



Gathered Here

Origins of the song:

This song was written in 1991 by Philip A. Porter.

Things to think about while singing:

Singers can reflect on the comfort and power of a welcoming congregation and the ability to reach a peaceful understanding in that space.

Directly related UU principles:

3 and 4

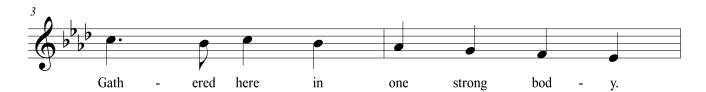
Performance suggestions:

This song can be repeated multiple times, possibly in a round.

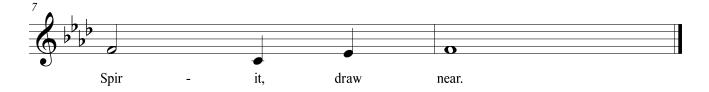
Gathered Here

Words and Music by: Philip A. Porter arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld









I've Got Peace Like a River

Origins of the song:

I've Got Peace Like a River is an African-American spiritual. This is a song that slaves sang to pass time and keep up hope.

Things to think about while singing:

It is possible to remain strong and peaceful in the most difficult of times. It is also possible to grateful for happy times. Peace is limitless.

Directly related UU principles:

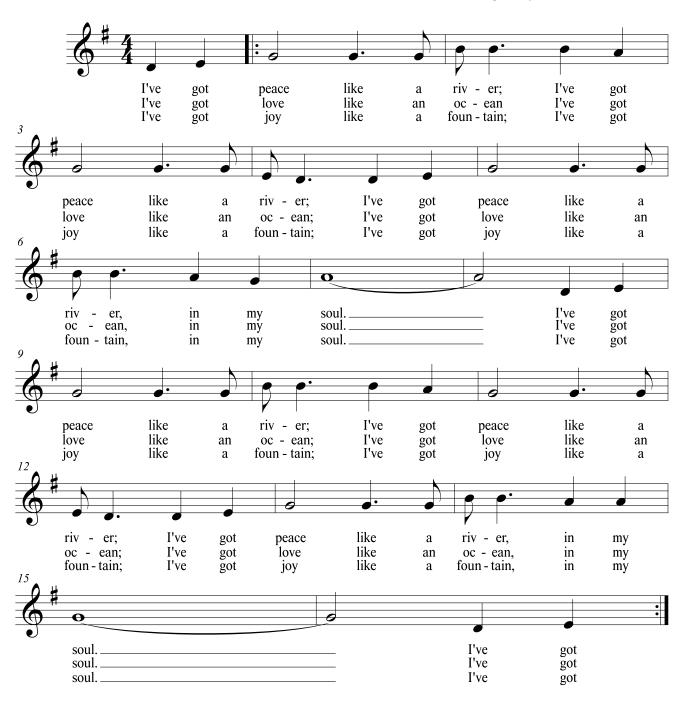
6

Performance suggestions:

This song is perfect to remind a congregation of the peace that they hold within them in the wake of tragedy or simply to connect youth and adults in peace.

I've Got Peace Like A River

Traditional arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



Love Will Guide Us

Origins of the song:

Sally Rogers wrote this song in 1985. It is a familiar hymn to many UUs.

Things to think about while singing:

Singers can think of their own life and love, and they can think of how that can guide them through life and its hardships.

Directly related UU principles:

1, 2, 3, 6, and 7

Performance suggestions:

With multiple verses, different combinations of the youth, congregation, and instrumentation can be tried.

Love Will Guide Us

Words and Music by: Sally Rogers arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



Meditation on Breathing

Origins of the song:

This song is actually the chorus of a song entitled, When I Breathe In, which was written in wake of September 11, 2001. It is sung at rallies and marches and UU churches all over the country.

Things to think about while singing:

Singers, young and old, can think of the importance of peace and love in both everyday life and tragedy.

Directly related UU principles:

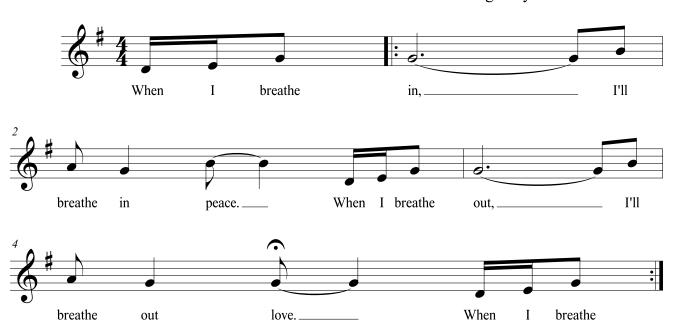
2 and 6

Performance suggestions:

This is often chanted in times of sadness or trouble. It should have no restraints, so it can rise and fall with the congregation.

Meditation on Breathing

Words and Music by: Sarah Dan Jones arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



Spirit of Life Origins of the song:

Carolyn McDade wrote this song, not as a hymn or worship song, but a song solely for her own hope when the world seemed dark. This song holds that purpose for many people.

Things to think about while singing:

This song reminds people to look to the good in their life in times of need.

Directly related UU principles:

Performance suggestions:

This song is perfect for many occasions. It is a celebration of life and can be repeated multiple times to bring a congregation together.

Spirit of Life

Words and Music by: Carolyn McDade arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld





Origins of the song:

This song was originally written by Harry Dixon Loes around 1920 for children. It came to shine light on many lives during the civil rights movement.

Things to think about while singing:

Each and every person has a light to bring to the world.

Directly related UU principles:

1, 2, 3, 4, and 6

Performance suggestions:

This song is great to share with young children.

This Little Light of Mine

African American Spirtitual arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



We Give Thanks

Origins of the song:

This song was written by Unitarian Universalist minister, Wendy Luella Perkins.

Things to think about while singing:

Singers can reflect on the aspects of their life that they are grateful for.

Directly related UU principles:

3 and 6

Performance suggestions:

This song is perfect for Thanksgiving.

We Give Thanks

Words and Music by: Wendy Luella Perkins arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



When Our Heart is in a Holy Place

Origins of the song:

This song was written in 1996 by Joyce Poley, and invites singers to see themselves in others. It encompasses the basic inclusive values of Unitarian Universalists.

Things to think about while singing:

This song holds a theme of respect and understanding across people of different classes, races, culture and faith. It speaks to the similarities and connection between people.

Directly related UU principles:

1, 2, 3, 6 and 7

Performance suggestions:

The song could be repeated twice, once with only children and once with the full congregation.

When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place

Words and Music by: Joyce Poley arranged by: Elise Reichenfeld



The Seven UU Principles (Children's versions)

- 1) We Believe that each and every person is important.
 - 2) We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.

3) We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

- 4) We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- 5) We believe that all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
 - 6) We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- 7) We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

Songs by Subject

Love and Compassion:

Building Bridges (pg.2), Come, Come, Whoever You Are (pg.4), Come, Sing a Song with Me (pg.6), Love Will Guide Us (pg.14), Meditation on Breathing (pg.16), We Give Thanks (pg.22), When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place (pg.24)

Acceptance:

Building Bridges (pg.2), Come, Come, Whoever You Are (pg.4), Enter, Rejoice, and Come In (pg.8), This Little Light of Mine (pg.20), When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place (pg.24)

Hope:

Building Bridges (pg.2), Come, Sing a Song with Me (pg.6), Enter, Rejoice, and Come In (pg.8), Gathered Here (pg.10), I've Got Peace Like A River (pg.12), Love Will Guide Us (pg.14), Meditation on Breathing (pg.16), Spirit of Life (pg.18), This Little Light of Mine (pg.20), We Give Thanks (pg.22), When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place (pg.24)

Open Mindfülness:

Gathered Here (pg.10)

Peace:

l've Got Peace Like A River (pg.12), Love Will Guide Us (pg.14), Meditation on Breathing (pg.16), Spirit of Life (pg.18)

Ideas for Use in Service

Opening Music:

Come, Come, Whoever You Are Come, Sing a Song with Me Enter, Rejoice, and Come In Gathered Here

Meditation:

Come, Come, Whoever You Are
Gathered Here
Meditation on Breathing
Spirit of Life
Building Bridges

Children's Recessional:

This Little Light of Mine Closing:

I've Got Peace Like a River
When Our Heart is in a Holy Place
Love Will Guide Us
Spirit of Life
We Give Thanks
Building Bridges

