

September

2. Water Ceremony: “And Now the Beautiful Rain”

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations conduct a “Water Communion” during Ingathering Sunday in September.

This inspiring ceremony involves congregants bringing water from their spiritual and physical travels and combining them together in a communal liturgical ritual. A guided meditation follows the cycle of a drop of water through the natural systems of our planet.

*And now the beautiful rain.
Silver streams paint dry leaves bright green.
washing the dullness off -
repainting the scene like touching up
an old fresco worn by the years.
Now sun crows about the diamonds
it made on wet leaves.
the hint of autumn always does this,
this last dance before the leaves
dry up and lose their green,
and older people count the years."*



to my daughter, Lisa

And Now the Beautiful Rain

Henry Berne

for chorus (SAB) and piano

Wally Kleucker

Waltz (♩ = c. 108)

Piano

p

S

A

T
B

Pno.

5

5

p

A

p

A

9

S

lit - tle wind - from a dark sky shakes the trees in leaf - y dance:

A

lit - tle wind - from a dark sky shakes the trees in leaf - y dance:

T
B

lit - tle wind - from a dark sky shakes the trees in leaf - y dance:

Pno.

sim.

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13 *f*

S so much move-ment of leaves on vines, Skirts *f*

A so much move-ment of leaves on vines, Skirts *f*

T B so much move-ment on leaves and vines. Skirts *f*

Pno. *f*

17 *mp*

S shim - mer and sweep, as on lad ies in an old fash ioned ball room a

A shim - mer and sweep, as on lad - ies in an old fash - ioned ball room a

T B shim - mer and sweep, as on lad - ies in an old fash - ioned ball room a

Pno. *mp*

And Now the Beautiful Rain

21 *mf* *p*

S waltz, per-haps, al - ways more grace - ful, were things simp - ler then?

A waltz, per-haps, al - ways more grace - ful, were things simp - ler then?

T B waltz, per-haps, al - ways more grace - ful, were things simp - ler then?

Pno. *mf* *p*

25

S simp - ler then?

A simp - ler then?

T B simp - ler then?

Pno. *mf*

29

Pno. *mp*

33 *f*

S
And now the beau - ti - ful

A
And now the beau - ti - ful

T
B
f
And now the beau - ti - ful

Pno.

37

S
rain. Sil - - - ver streams paint dry leaves bright

A
rain. Sil - - - ver streams paint dry leaves bright

T
B
rain. Sil - - - ver streams paint dry leaves bright

Pno.

And Now the Beautiful Rain

41

S
green. wash - ing the dull - ness off - re - paint - ing the

A
green. wash - ing the dull - ness off - re - paint - ing the

T
B
green. wash - ing the dull - ness off - re - paint - ing the

Pno.

45

S
scene like touch - ing up an old fres - co worn by the

A
scene like touch - ing up an old fres - co worn by the

T
B
scene like touch - ing up an old fres - co worn by the

Pno.

49 *mp*

S years. And now the

A years. And now the

T B years. And now the

Pno. *mp*

53

S beau - ti - ful rain. Sil - - - ver streams paint

A beau - ti - ful rain. Sil - - - ver streams paint

T B beau - ti - ful rain. Sil - - - ver streams paint

Pno.

And Now the Beautiful Rain

57

S
dry leaves bright green. wash - ing the dull - ness off - re -

A
dry leaves bright green. wash - ing the dull - ness off - re -

T
B
dry leaves bright green. wash - ing the dull - ness off - re -

Pno.

61 *mf*

S
paint - ing the scene like touch - ing up an old fres - co

A
paint - ing the scene like touch - ing up an old fres - co

T
B
paint - ing the scene like touch - ing up an old fres - co

Pno.

And Now the Beautiful Rain

65 *f*

S
worn by the years. Now sun crows a - bout the

A
worn by the years. Now sun crows a - bout the

T
worn by the years. Now sun crows a - bout the

B

Pno. *f*

69

S
dia - monds it made on wet leaves. the hint of

A
dia - monds it made on wet leaves. the hint of

T
dia - monds it made on wet leaves. the hint of

B

Pno.

And Now the Beautiful Rain

73

S
au - tumn al - ways does this, this last dance be -

A
au - tumn al - ways does this, this last dance be -

T
B
au - tumn al - ways does this, this last dance be -

Pno.

77

S
fore the leaves dry up and lose their green, and

A
fore the leaves dry up and lose their green, and

T
B
fore the leaves dry up and lose their green, and

Pno.

And Now the Beautiful Rain

81

S *p* old - er peo - ple count the years. count the years. *pp* This

A *p* old - er peo - ple count the years. count the years. *pp* This

T *p* old - er peo - ple count the years. count the years. *pp* This

Pno. *p* *pp*

85

S last dance be - fore the leaves dry up and

A last dance be - fore the leaves dry up and

T last dance be - fore the leaves dry up and

Pno.

And Now the Beautiful Rain

89 *mf* *rit.*

S
lose their green, and old-er peo - ple count the years. count the years,

A
lose their green, and old-er peo - ple count the years. count the years,

T
lose their green, and old-er peo - ple count the years. count the years,

B
lose their green, and old-er peo - ple count the years. count the years,

Pno. *mf* *rit.*

93 *f*

S
Count the years.

A
Count the years.

T
Count the years.

B
Count the years.

Pno. *f*