

# The Four Seasons



**A Worship Pack created by  
Junior Weekend children & leaders**  
Prepared for Youth Sunday 29th Jan 2012



Dear worship leaders and children,

Welcome to 'The Four Seasons', a worship pack created by children and youth leaders from Junior Weekend. We hope you enjoy taking a look at the material - suitable for 5-11 year olds.



Please feel free to use it any way you like. You may like to ask some children to lead an intergenerational service (for people of all ages) in your congregation or you may prefer to use just some parts of this pack and aim the first half of the worship towards children and families. You may even wish to use this material for worship on a different Sunday altogether.

If you have no children in your congregation you could choose 'children' as your theme and include the *UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child* as one of your readings.

You may like to donate part or all of the collection towards the Youth Programme to help us expand and deepen our youth work and religious education for young Unitarians.

The main hope behind Youth Sunday is to encourage our worship up and down the country to become more child/youth friendly, accessible for all ages and to inform more families about the Youth Programme.

For information about the Youth Programme please look at [www.yuonline.org.uk](http://www.yuonline.org.uk), our very own website, or go to [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) - we hope you enjoy this material.

With warmest wishes,

John Harley - GA Youth Coordinator



Cover image by Colin Partington



## *Chalice Lighting*

### May Our Candle

*Radiate calm,  
Symbolise new life,  
Symbolise destiny,  
Radiate love,  
Be for everyone,  
Symbolise life,  
Ignite peace,  
Glow,  
Promote hope & happiness,  
And bring us together.*

The above prayer was written after a workshop about lighting the chalice and what it means to us. You may like to follow these words with a moment of quietness, looking at the flame and thinking what it means to us.

#### **Hymns**

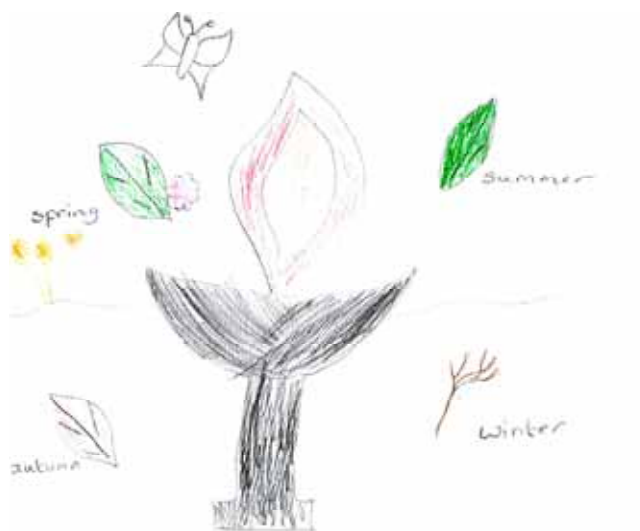
260 'Tis Winter Now (HFL), 125 One more step along the world I go (SYF)

or

24 Come sing a song with me (SYF)

or

you may want to choose a hymn to represent or explore each of the four seasons throughout the worship.



## Story - The Leaky Bucket - based on a traditional story

There was once a beautiful garden. The gardener was so proud of it. He cared for the flowers with great tenderness and love. His flowers were so stunning and people from all over the world would come and look at them.

Each evening he would make the journey to his garden shed at the far end of the garden, unlock the door and take out his two buckets and he would fill them up with the sparkling water from a stream and fill them up to the brim with water.

First he would fill the brand new one he'd recently bought from a garden centre, then an old bucket, full of holes and leaky. He would carry them down the long winding path to the garden and water his colourful flower beds. He would empty the new, perfect bucket (which always remained full to the brim) then, he would empty the old, shabby bucket, although it would only be half full, and swish the water over the plants. After watering the flowers he would walk back along the path and return the buckets to his shed.

One evening he unlocked his garden shed and filled up the two buckets in the usual way - first the brand new one, then the old, leaky one and carry them down the long stony path to the garden.

On this occasion he overheard a conversation between the two buckets:

The new bucket said: " I'm such a shiny, new bucket. I'm perfect. I don't have any holes at all! The gardener must value me more than you! You're old and full of holes! I don't know *why* he keeps you at all! You're a waste of space!"

The leaky bucket replied: "I know I'm not perfect. I know I'm full of holes but I'm only trying to do my best. As long as the gardener wants to keep me, I'll keep working."

The gardener was troubled by the conversation he heard. He emptied the buckets over his flowers in the usual way. First the new bucket with plenty of water, then the leaky bucket that was only half full.

The Gardener decided to say something . . .

"Thank you to both of you. You have both done a good day's work. This time when I walk back to the shed, I want you to take a good look and notice that on the side of the path where I carried you New Bucket, the ground is dry and lifeless, just bare earth. While the other side of the path where I carried you Leaky Bucket, there are wonderful flowers that have been watered every evening by you. I want you to know that both of you are so very valuable to me and I treasure you both."

The Gardener carried the buckets back to the shed and locked them up for the night. They both felt special and from that day on the gardener never heard them argue again.

*This story can be dramatised quite easily with a narrator and two children to mime the two buckets. Simple costumes can be made - with large sheets of card made into cylinders and painted as buckets.*



**Some readings and poems written by Juniors**

**Autumn**  
 The hope of a good harvest  
 And for all the fruits and vegetables  
 Wind  
 The start of school year  
 Migrating birds  
 Leaves changing colour  
 Bonfires  
 Halloween  
 Leaves falling from trees  
 And Junior weekend!



**Spring**  
 Spring has sprung  
 The flowers do bloom  
 Baby animals are born  
  
 Spring has sprung  
 Easter time and chocolate  
 Cherry blossom  
  
 Spring has sprung  
 New fresh leaves  
 Spring cleaning  
  
 Spring has sprung  
 New life new hope  
 Pretty April Showers  
  
 Spring has sprung  
 And all it brings  
 Celebrate all that spring brings

**Summer**  
 Playing in the hot sun  
 Having ice-cream  
 Having fun  
 Soft wind on you face  
 Seeing friends and family  
 Going to the zoo  
 Plants grow  
 School holidays  
 Warm weather  
 Summer rain  
 Flowers bloom  
 The beach  
 Camping  
 Bright colours  
 Sunshine  
 Juicy fruits and vegetables  
 Getting washing dry  
 Long days  
 Play in the park



**What does winter mean?**  
 The snow falling, the play we can have in the snow, building snowmen, snowball throwing and all the fun to be had.  
 Maybe the chance to go ice skating or go sledging.  
 The laughter and good times.  
 The magic of the snowflakes falling all around us.  
 Winter means celebrations and fun.  
 Christmas time and school holidays, the parties, Father Christmas and presents and the singing of carols.  
 A time when the animals hibernate, to keep them out of the cold, a dark time of the year.  
 The evergreen will stand proud and give some colour.

*These poems can be accompanied by artwork created by children in the weeks building up to the service.*



## Hymns

- 5 All the colours (SYF),
- or
- 264 Spring buds of hope (HFL)
- or
- 66 How wonderful this world of thine (SYF)



## Prayer/meditation

### This morning is a gift

This morning is a gift.  
Every morning you have another chance.  
Sometimes you do nothing.  
Sometimes you get lucky and the day shines on you.  
But how often do you seize that day with your own hands and make it your own?

This morning may we wake up to this new day and live this life with each other and try to build a dream.

As we live this day let us be aware of all those people across the face of the world. Those in cities, those in deserts, those on mountains, those in ships or planes who, as the sun rises, will be waking up to the hope of this new day.

*Words taken from the film 24/7 - adapted by John Harley*

### May our feet rest firmly on the ground

May our feet rest firmly on the ground  
May our heads touch the sky  
May our seeing be clear  
May we be able to listen to others  
May we be free to touch and explore  
May our words be true  
May our hearts and minds be open  
May our hands be ready to help others  
May our arms be open to hug  
May our gifts be clear to us  
May we know our place in this world  
May we never forget where we belong in the  
great circle of life.

(adapted from the Terma Collective)



## Hymns

- 268 Moods of summer (HFL)
- or
- 43 Gather the spirit (SYF)





## Ritual/activity

### Wishing Well Tree

Let us have some silence together now. During the silence think of any wishes you have for the future. Think of any hopes you have for yourself or your friends, family, your community or the world.

#### *Silence*

If you like, write a wish or wishes on a leaf (a basket full of paper leaves can be passed around the congregation with some pens or pencil - allow some more time for this).

We now invite you to come up to the wishing well and drop your leaf inside. (A wishing well can be made out of a round biscuit tin covered with shiny blue paper or you can improvise. A helper can pick out the leaves from the wishing well and clip them one by one onto a tree - this can be made of a big branch - use clothes pegs to attach each leaf.)



May our wishes and hopes sway in the breeze and be aired by the wind. May the sun shine softly on them and carry them beyond the horizon.

May passers by get to hear about them and take them into their lives.

May someday our unspoken, hidden wishes and hopes find the light of the day.

(The congregation can come up and read some of the wishes if they wish either during the service or after the end. At a later date the wishes can be written up in the newsletter and shared)

**Hymn** 88 Let it be a dance (SYF) or 275 Look at the hillside (HFL)

#### **Closing words**

#### **Weather benediction**

Through the heaven's cycles of old moons and new moons,  
we've travelled on a myriad of pathways,  
through weathers of all the personalities of the gods.

Snow may have been your playmate or your trickster.  
You may have been caressed or pelted by the rain,  
found your way through fog  
or stood up to the wind.



YOUTH  
SUNDAY





For more details about events run for young Unitarian people (YUP)  
please go to:

**[www.yuonline.org.uk](http://www.yuonline.org.uk)**

or

**[www.unitarian.org.uk/youth](http://www.unitarian.org.uk/youth)**

or Contact John Harley

e: [jharley@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:jharley@unitarian.org.uk) t: 07985 900 935

Copyright © 2011 - The Unitarian & Free Christian Churches

1-6 Essex St, London, WC2R 3HR t: 0207 240 2384

Charity Number 250788



YOUTH  
SUNDAY

