

FRONT



Luanne Crosby

Ceremonies and Celebrations



Songs for the Rituals of Life

INSIDE

Ceremonies and Celebrations; Songs for the Rituals of Life

For many years I have been a member of a local Unitarian Universalist Congregation. I am often asked to provide a song for a specific occasion, and when unable to find one that fits well, I write one instead. This has given me the opportunity to create songs that express my deepest feelings about the human condition, whether celebrating two people coming together in love and marriage, celebrating a child's birth or ascent into adulthood, mourning the passing of those we have loved and lost, or any other event where people come together to recognize life's journey and our connection to each other. I am happy to share these songs with you in the hopes that you, in turn, may share them with others as you perform them at your own ceremonies and celebrations.

All songs written by Luanne Crosby
Vocals and Rhythm guitar, Luanne Crosby

Piano on I Do, Luanne Crosby
Lead guitar, additional rhythm guitar, keyboards, drums, backing vocals, bass Tom Duval

Vocal and instrumental arrangements by Tom Duval

Recorded and mixed by Tom Duval
Produced by Tom Duval and Luanne Crosby

Mastered by Dana White
Art- front cover – Janis Mckenney
Art- back cover – Evan Crosby

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Trust and Wonder

Friends of mine asked me to perform a song at their child's dedication service. I wrote this and since then have performed it at dozens of child dedications.

Heart of Me

When my daughter was a pre-teen, I imagined her becoming an adult and going off into the world. I wrote this song and when she was older, played it for her Coming of Age ceremony and have done so for many others since.

Alive Inside of You

One Easter the minister asked me to perform a song for the children. At the time, there was a family in the congregation whose mother had recently died of breast cancer. I knew her two young children would be in the pews and I didn't think it was fair to play a song about things coming back to life. I decided to write a song that would be honest to their loss while still honoring the spirit of the season.

Thankfulness

I wrote and performed this song at the town Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service the first Thanksgiving after 9/11. This was a very tender time for the country and for many of us individually. It was a sad time, but for a short period there was a feeling of unity and love that transcended the horror of the event.

One Love

The meaning of this song will depend upon your interpretation and your experience. For some the "one love" that through the years has allowed them to remain strong in difficult times or got them through when things seemed tough, was a parent, a friend, a loved one, or in some cases God. For me it was my own inner strength – self love, if you will.

I Do

I wanted to write a wedding song and the idea of using the phrase "I Do" to express a belief rather than an action resulted in this song.

Wonder and Believe

For me, nature is a guiding force – in many ways I consider myself a pantheist. As a parent, I tried to foster a love of and appreciation for the natural rhythms of life. I enjoy performing this song at outdoor services and those with an environmental theme.

Your Way

This was another written for my daughter during a time of transition, in this particular case when she was leaving her small alternative grammar school and entering the public middle school. This is appropriate for graduations and other periods of life when one is leaving the familiar and moving to the next experience.

Song of Remembrance

The minister of the church asked if I could perform a song at a Samhain (pronounced Sa-win) service she was conducting. Samhain is a pagan ritual, in the late fall, to remember the dead. I wrote this as an acapella song – the only one I've created like this – and I perform it every year for the annual service. It was inspired by the loss of my father who died in 1981 at the age of 57.

Field of Flags

The Field of Flags is a traveling display of small American flags, which are planted in the ground in very precise rows, one for each soldier who has died in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our church hosted the display and I wrote and performed this song. Since then I have played it at other churches that have hosted the display.

Visit luannecrosby.com for lyrics and more about Luanne

OUTSIDE TRAY CARD

Songs for the Rituals of Life

Ceremonies and Celebrations

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1. *Trust and Wonder* (2:27)
2. *Heart of Me* (3:26)
3. *Alive Inside of You* (2:47)
4. *Thankfulness* (2:59)
5. *One Love* (3:05)
6. *I Do* (2:32)
7. *Wonder and Believe* (3:11)
8. *Your Way* (2:57)
9. *Song of Remembrance* (2:14)
10. *Field of Flags* (3:45)



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