

“Bridging”
May 17th, 2020
Rev. Laurel Gray

To our bridgers:

It would do you a disservice to pretend that your experience of finishing high school is normal. It's not. As Unitarian Universalists, we celebrate the transition from high school to life beyond with a bridging ceremony. And though we are gathering in a spirit of celebration in the best way we can, it's not the same. We cannot gather in person. We cannot form the bridge for you to walk through to represent your transition. But we can give you our blessing. We can celebrate how much you've grown since you became part of this congregation. We can recognize your light. We can bestow you with gifts.

As we reflected two weeks ago, marking transitions in life matters - it's important to have the changes we're going through recognized. And in so many ways right now those rituals are absent or unrecognizable. There can be no walking across a stage, no graduation processions, no senior recitals - nothing looks the way we'd hoped it would as this season of your life comes to a close. I suspect it will take time to understand what this moment means for your life, to digest the magnitude of entering adulthood at a time when life as usual has stopped entirely.

And yet, amidst all the struggle of this moment, amidst all the struggle that you met on your journey these last few years, you're graduating from high school, starting a new chapter in your life. That is no small thing. I hope you feel proud of all that you've accomplished, more

familiar with your own strength and resilience, steady in the truth that you have always been enough, exactly as you are.

Amidst all the anxiety and grief, the ambiguity and strangeness of life right now, I hope you feel the love of this community today.

It is an incredibly strange and stressful time to be graduating from high school and looking towards the next stage of your life. Maybe you're thrilled. Maybe you're scared, or confused, or disappointed. Maybe you're all that and more. Amidst all the complexity, we at UUCSW give you our blessing, we celebrate all that you have become, and we hope to see you again.