



**Merging Waters Pastoral Charge
Sunday Morning Worship**

**Earth Day
With Aaron Miechkota**

**4th Sunday Of Easter
April 25th, 2021**

WELCOME/BIENVENUE

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life
are welcome.

Wherever you are, whoever you are,
we welcome you in love and
community to worship.

Wherever we are, we're close in
one another's hearts.

*Toutes et tous sont bienvenus, peu importe l'âge,
l'identité ou les conditions de vie.*

*Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui
que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans
l'amour et la communauté pour
louer Dieu ensemble.*

Notre amour n'est jamais limité par la distance

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Bold print indicates text to read/sing/pray in unison

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples and nations. Merging Waters honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet and live today.

MUSICAL CENTERING

Wonderful World

Words and Music: George David Weiss / Robert Thiele
Choral Arrangement: Mark A. Brymer
Sung by Merging Waters Choir

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

light a candle at home if it is safe to do so

CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW

by David Kai (Verse 2 & Chorus)

**We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade,
In the rainbow each of us can find a place.**

**We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**



SPIRITUAL FOCUS

The cycles of the Earth continue and here we are in another spring
A time of reawakening and new beginnings
Snowdrops, crocus, daffodils, bloodroot have emerged safely from the soil after a long winter
Tree buds are swelling; spring birds are arriving
Insects and frogs dig themselves out of their winter homes
Let us never take any of this for granted
We depend on all these living things
We share the Earth with many and must protect it for all
Amen

EARTH DAY PART I: Biodiversity – Hope in Action

EARTH DAY PART II: Saving our Forests

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Touch the Earth Lightly

**Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.**

A Meditation from the UN Environmental Sabbath Program

**We join with the earth and with each other
To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air**

We join with the earth and with each other

To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with each other

To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other

To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children of the earth

We join with the earth and with each other

We join together as many and diverse expressions of
one loving mystery: for the healing of the
Earth and the renewal of all life.

Source: Earth Gospel, p. 91 (2008)

EARTH DAY PART III: Gardening for Wildlife

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Bird Songs in the Morgan Arboretum

PRAYERS OF CONCERN AND JOY

JESUS PRAYER FOR TODAY

O, Source of Life,

**Connectedness beyond simple perception,
We hold our experience of you as sacred.
May we choose to live the good you call for,
In our actions as well as in our imaginings.
Nourish our bodies and spirits,
Inspiring us to share the abundance that we have.
Challenge us to show understanding and love for others
As we need to be understood and loved.
Help us overcome our shortcomings to be our best selves,
Through the faith that you have always shown in us.
May we all make it so. Amen**

**We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev'ry earthly nation.**

**When bodies shiver in the night
and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbour.**

**God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever.**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Against the dark backdrop of infinite space,
our planet appears so small, so vulnerable.
Guide me, dear God
that I may cherish your earth
and the life it sustains
with the best of my energy
intelligence, imagination,
and love.

Source: Earth Gospel, p 116 (2008)

Musical Sending

The Blue Green Hills of Earth

Words and Music: Kim Oler
Choral Arrangement: Paul Halley
Soloist: Denise Pelley
with 'Road to Hope' Choir and Band

Thank you to for joining us today



**MERGING WATERS PASTORAL CHARGE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
UNION CHURCH**



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« An Affirming Congregation »

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**Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge**



*Welcome Grace Service Love
Community*

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m. (unless alternative time is listed)

May 2nd. 5th Sunday of Easter – Communion Sunday

May 9th. 6th Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day/Christian Family Sunday

**Worship at Merging Waters: Sunday www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online
Links for the Zoom Service will be available at on that page
Download the Zoom App at zoom.us/download**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

St-John's United, in Pointe-Claire has a food bank, you can drop-off on Wednesdays 11-noon or Wendy & Richard Buchanan have kindly offered to pick-up and drop-off for you.

Union Church's Annual Plant Sale is confirmed, starting May 1st. Helen Fyles will operate the sale as she did last year with selection of plants on a Facebook page, send her an email, pick-up at her front lawn.

Lakeshore Association of Artists (LAA) and NOVA West Island are holding an online exhibition of works, a fundraiser for NOVA. 50 artists taking part, running May 1st-31st.

Beautiful **handmade cards** by Lynn Thompson are on offer. Proceeds to Union church.

Ste-Anne's Market – Open on Saturday April 21ST 10am-1pm indoor/outdoor at St-George's Church. Please spread the word that the market is ongoing, they need your support.

The award winning Broadview Magazine - SPIRITUALITY, JUSTICE AND ETHICAL LIVING CELEBRATING 192 YEARS. Subscription for a year, is upcoming in May. \$25 for 8 issues delivered to your door.

Details about these happenings and more in the mid-week message.
Which you can find on our website www.mergingwaters.ca click on the Stay Up-to-Date tab then on Mid-Week Message.