



Merging Waters United Church
Sunday Morning Worship
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 18, 2022

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.

Please join in the responses in **bold text**.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

The Merging Waters United Church community is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples and nations.

Our community honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

MUSICAL CENTERING “What a Wonderful World” music by Weiss and Thiele, arranged by Edstrom

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

All creation is made of star-stuff.

From the basic building blocks of the universe, come fire, air, earth, and water.

And all creation sings praise to the Creator of all.

Baptized by the waters of the sky, standing firm on the earth, breathing deep the breath of life, warmed by this flame...

We go where Christ's light shines!

Alleluia! Amen!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Earth

The foundation upon which we stand.

Loam.

A place of growth, of nourishment, of life!

Dirt.

A place of work, a place of play—

Of a parent saying,

"Come in and get cleaned up!"

Earth. Loam. Dirt. Land.

Sacred. Holy.

Ever strong and ever changing.

Filled with God's love. **Alleluia! Amen!**

SONG More Voices 135 – Called by Earth and Sky

PRAYER OF APPROACH

God of all creation, as we gather in worship today, we call to you as our father, our instructor. Guide us, teach us, inspire us.

You say: "I have been your guide and teacher. The whole cosmos bears witness to my wisdom and creation itself is the revelation of my love."

Turn us into fertile soil. Plant in us seeds of faith, of hope and of wonder, that will grow into rich harvest. Help us to know that we and the land are inseparable – we are one, one in you. Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We long to travel gently on the earth, Creator,
to respect all life, and to recognize water as sacred.

Forgive us for the things that we have made and done that hurt your good creation...

We see the destruction in the world around us.

We see around us indifference, negligence in the management of your creation

For the sake of creation, help us to live better.

And help us to restore good relations. Amen!

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

All is not lost!

God loves his creation.

We are his children

We are precious in God's sight.

We are forgiven by God's grace.

Let us say together:

"THANKS BE TO GOD!"

SONG Voices United #512 Lord, you give the great commission (1,2,5)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as

The Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear what you are saying to us today.

Amen

SCRIPTURE Psalm 79 (VU 793)

(Refrain) Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

O God, the nations have entered your domain,

Defiled your holy temple and laid Jerusalem in ruins.

They have left your servants' bodies for scavenging birds,

The flesh of your faithful ones for wild beasts.

The blood was shed like water around Jerusalem, with none to bury them.

We have become the taunt of our neighbours,

Mocked and scorned by those around us.

How long, O God? Will you be angry forever?

Will your jealous wrath burn like fire? (R)

Pour out your rage on the nations that do not acknowledge you.

On the realms that will not call on your name.

For they have devoured Jacob and desolated Israel's home.

Do not hold the sins of past generations against us.

Let your compassion come swiftly to meet us,

For we are sunk very low.

Help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.

Deliver us and forgive our sin, for the honour of your name. (R)

SCRIPTURE Luke 16: 1 –13: The parable of the dishonest manager

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'

So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth,[d] who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?”

No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING “Mother Earth, Father Sky” music and lyrics by Michael Woytiuk

OFFERING RESPONSE VU # 227

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, pour out your blessing upon the gifts we share, that they may carry your message of life and love to this community and beyond, proclaiming your grace throughout all of creation.

AMEN!

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE PRAYER OF JESUS / THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.

SONG Voices United #612 There is a balm in Gilead

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

AMEN

MUSICAL SENDING “River in Judea” music by Jack Feldman, words by Linda Marcus, arranged by John Leavitt

Thank you for joining in worship today ❤️

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada

Union building @ 24 Maple, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Beaurepaire building @ 25 Fieldfare, Beaconsfield

Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music

Jo-Anne Windover, Office Administrator

mergingwaters@bellnet.ca

(514) 457-5819

(514) 695-5448

www.mergingwaters.ca

We are pleased to welcome Marie Silvenie Chery as our worship leader this Sunday. Marie Silvenie is a second-year theology student at Dio (formerly UTC) and is pursuing her B.Th. and M.Div. degrees while continuing to work as a clinician nurse. Upon completing her studies she plans to devote herself to full-time ministry. Originally from Haiti, Marie Silvenie grew up in the Methodist tradition. She has been a member of Riverside United Church in Rosemère for several years and is very involved with their activities, including singing in the choir.

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

September 25th **Union** – led by Adedeji Sunday Akintayo

October 2nd **Beaurepaire** World Communion Sunday – led by Lisa Byer-de Wever

October 9 **Union** – Thanksgiving

October 16 **Beaurepaire** – World Food Sunday

Resources for prayers and readings are from Gathering 2022 – Pentecost 2