



## Merging Waters United Church

### Sunday Morning Worship

### Theme: The rich and poor as neighbours

Sunday, September 25, 2022

## WELCOME / BIENVENUE

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

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

### ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We'd like to take this time to acknowledge that Merging Waters United Church and Beaufort United Church is situated within the traditional and unceded territories of the Kanien'keha:ka (GAN-YAN-GE-HA-GA), also known as the Mohawk, first nation. We honour and respect their culture and their stewardship of the land, and we repent of the harm that the church has caused to them and other Indigenous peoples. We encourage you to take some time today (and every day) to reflect on your relationship with this land and on what you are doing to be in right relationship with the Indigenous peoples whose land we live on.

## **MUSICAL CENTERING (Sung Invocation): MV 7 Gather Us In**

Gather us in, ground us in you. Gather us in, ground us in you. Gather us in,  
gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

## **THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE**

Light a candle at home if you wish!

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Praise the Lord.

**Praise the Lord, O my soul.**

I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob.

**Whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

Who executes justice for the oppressed;

**Who gives food for the hungry.**

The Lord sets the prisoner free;

**The Lord will reign forever,**

You are God, for all generations.

**Praise the Lord!**

## **SPIRITUAL FOCUS**

Almighty God,  
you create, redeem and sustain us.

In you we place our trust.  
When we face illness, conflict, and fear,  
you are our steadfast protector.  
When we suffer setback and loss,  
you restore us through your love.  
When our lives prosper and we are comfortable,  
you move us to share our blessings with others.  
In times of hardship and plenty,  
you alone are the source of the life.  
Holy God,  
in love and trust,  
we live the power of your resurrection,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**SONG MV 10 – Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom.** Words by Ruth Duck and music by Donna Kasbohm

1 Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced, when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true. Wisdom clears  
the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

2 Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the market-place. Hear the Word made  
flesh among us, full of glory, truth and grace. When the word takes root and  
ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

3 Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth. Spirit-guide and  
close companion, bring to light our sacred worth. Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.

### **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

God, our Father and Mother,  
You love us with endless mercy.

You call us to be your sons and daughters.  
Give us a generous heart.

A heart of flesh that is willing to love.

A compassionate heart towards the poor and suffering people,

A heart where there is a place for love around the world.

Lord Jesus, You call us to follow you. Give us the courage to live our  
commitment.

Teach us to be filled with your spirit.

Teach us to share Christ mission around the world.

Holy Spirit, You call us to worship with joy.

Fill us with your grace to live the values of the Gospel.

Fill us with your grace to be active members in your Church.

Fill us with your grace so that we may be credible witnesses.

Teach us to discover you in the lowliest.

Teach us to look with the eyes of faith.

Teach us to share Christ mission around the world.

Holy Spirit, You call us to worship with joy.

Fill us with your grace to live the values of the Gospel.

Fill us with your grace to be active members in your Church.

Fill us with your grace so that we may be credible witnesses.

### ***SCRIPTURE***

***1. Psalm 91: 1 – 6, 14 – 16.***

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,<sup>[a]</sup>

2 will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence;

4 he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night  
or the arrow that flies by day

6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

14 Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.

15 When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble;  
I will rescue them and honor them.

16 With long life I will satisfy them  
and show them my salvation.

## **2. Luke 16: 19 – 31**

<sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham.<sup>[a]</sup> The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

### ***REFLECTION FOR TODAY: The rich and poor as neighbours***

We worship a generous God  
whose son Jesus was both a gift and great giver.  
As followers of Jesus

we find our deepest joy in giving,  
and that's why we give this offering cheerfully.

## **OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING** "Rippling Beauty" Music and lyrics by Michael Wotiuk

Sometimes you try to make the world a better place,  
A little drop of care brings rippling beauty,

Some are blind to the beauty around,  
Looking for chances to gain more ground,  
No time to offer a helping hand,  
Missing out on the joy of friendship found,

Some are deaf to the song birds tune,  
Plugged into their cell phones from noon to noon,  
Absent to the voices that can't get through,  
Still, precious voices are always for you.

Be kind to all you meet,  
No matter who,  
A little drop of care brings them rippling beauty,  
You've got to share your rippling beauty  
Every where, everywhere  
All around the whole world  
Go out and share your rippling beauty!

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God our creator and provider,  
out of the abundance of our lives,  
we offer these gifts to you.  
Through your blessing and our willingness to share,  
may these offerings become a source for hope and love

in this church, and in the community beyond us,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*SONG VU 684 "Make Me a Channel of your Peace" Music and lyrics by Sebastian Temple*

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord  
And where there is doubt true faith in You

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
It is in giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we are born to eternal life

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY/PRAYERS OF JOY AND  
CONCERN (READ RESPONSIVELY)**

Jehovah.

Come give grace to each of us for this community to overcome intolerance and indifferences.

Jehovah.

Come give love to each of us in this community for us to love our neighbours more deeply.

Jehovah.

Come give peace to each of us for this community to thrive peacefully.

Jehovah.

Come give joy to each of us in this community for everyone to be happy.

### ***THE PRAYER OF JESUS/THE LORD'S PRAYER***

Our Father and Mother,

which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come

Thy will be done in earth,

As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

**SONG VU 702 “When a Poor One”** *Written by A. Oliver and Miguel Manzano*

1. When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers, when the thirsty water give unto us all, when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.
2. When at last all those who suffer find their comfort, when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness, when we love though hate at times seems all around us, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.
3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance, when we learn how to peace instead of war, when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, [Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

May the strength of God sustain us.

May the power of God preserve us.

May the hands of God protect us.

May the way of God direct us.

May the grace of God help us to be in love with our neighbours.

May the peace of God go with us this day and forever.

**MUSICAL SENDING “Try A Little Kindness”** *music and lyrics by Bobby Austin and Curt Sapaugh*

If you see your brother standing by the road  
With a heavy load from the seeds he sowed  
And if you see your sister falling by the way  
Just stop and say, "You're going the wrong way"

You've got to try a little kindness  
Yes, show a little kindness  
Just shine your light for everyone to see  
And if you try a little kindness  
Then you'll overlook the blindness  
Of narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded streets

Don't walk around the down and out  
Lend a helping hand instead of doubt  
And the kindness that you show every day  
Will help someone along their way

You got to try a little kindness  
Yes, show a little kindness  
Just shine your light for everyone to see  
And if you try a little kindness  
Then you'll overlook the blindness  
Of narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded streets

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And if you try a little kindness  
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Thank you for joining in worship today 

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## **MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH**

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada

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### **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

**Today we welcome Adedeji Sunday Akintayo as our worship leader. Adedeji is a fourth-year theology student at Dio/UTC in preparation for ordination in the United Church of Canada. He is also a community worker responsible for cultural integration of African refugees at Beaconsfield United Church. He is a husband, father of four, and is driven by his faith and service for his community. Welcome to Merging Waters, Adedeji!**