



MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Worldwide Communion Sunday
October 2, 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.

GREETING

God is good
all the time.
All the time
God is Good.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We acknowledge that the lands our churches and many of our homes sit on have been stewarded by the first peoples of Turtle Island, among them the Kanien'keha:ka: ka, "Mohawk" peoples, as well as nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the neighbouring Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabeg, and Abenaki peoples. We commit ourselves as a faith community to the multi-generational work of reconciliation, the pursuit of true justice and flourishing well-being for all peoples who now call Canada home.

MUSICAL CENTERING : MV 2 Come All You People

Come all you people, come and praise your maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your maker
Come now and worship your God. (Repeat three times)
Uya-i mose, tina-ma te Mwari,
Uya-i-mose, tina-ma-teMwari,
Uya-i-mose, tina-ma-teMwari,
Uya-i mose zvino.

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

God is here
all the time.
All the time
God is here.

All are welcome
all the time.
All the time
all are welcome.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

We are not possible without you, God.

We are the products of those who came before.

We influence those who come after.

You bind the generations to one another.

We offer the treasures we find in you to one another.

Passing them down through the ages.

Hear us as we worship you.

SONG: VU 288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness Music and words by Thomas O. Chisholm, Tune by Runyan

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Gracious God,

**we come before you as bearers of a faith
for which we are not always known.**

Sometimes we shrink from the gift entrusted to us,

**as if it is the least part of ourselves,
as if passing trivialities matter more,
as if faith has no real weight in the scheme of things.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us our unfaithfulness.

Forgive us for our turning from your gifts.

**Call us back to life in you,
today and every day.**

Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

God is merciful and forgiving. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ, we are assured that God sees us from far and greets us with tender mercy when we return to God. Therefore, let us be at peace with ourselves, with God, and with each other.

Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION: Inscription of Hope. Music by Z. Randall Stroope, text from a cellar wall where Jews hid from the Nazis during WW11

I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
and I believe in love
even when there's no one there
and I believe in God
even when he is silent

I believe through any trial
there is always a way

but sometimes in this suffering
and hopeless despair
my heart cries for shelter to know someones there
but a voice rises within me saying hold on my child
I'll give you strength I'll give you hope just stay a little while

I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
and I believe in love
even when there's no one there

but I believe in God
even when he is silent
I believe through any trial there is always a way

may there someday be sunshine
may there someday be happiness
may there someday be love
may there someday be peace

SCRIPTURE :

Lamentations 1: 1– 6 & 3: 19 - 26

1 How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!

2 She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

³ Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest: all her persecutors overtook her between the straits.

⁴ The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness.

⁵ Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

⁶ And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.

²⁰ I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.

²¹ Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:

²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

²⁶ it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY: Good Treasure

MINUTE FOR MISSION / STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

OFFERING

God has given us good gifts:

the gift of life, the gift of love, the gift of mercy,
the gift of this good Earth, our home.

The gift of teachers, the gift of presence,
the gift of people to love, the gift of a call to serve,
and the gift of hope for the future of God's world.

God has given us good gifts.

Let us return for God's use a portion of what God has given us,
to further God's purposes in this world.

MUSICAL OFFERING MV 066 Senzeni-Na

What have we done?
Our sin is that we are black?
Our sin is the truth
They are killing us
Let Africa return
Senzeni Na? Senzeni Na?
Senzeni Na? Senzeni Na?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One,

may our hearts be attentive to your voice.

Open our eyes to the needs of the world. t

Strengthen in us the mission and spirit of this faith community.

Accept and use this offering towards furthering the reality of your realm on
Earth through Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

SONG: VU 182 Grateful Words and Music by Tom Tomaszek (2003)

Refrain: Grateful for the life you gave us, thankful for your Holy Son, joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love. Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

1. You are more than we imagine, Ancient, Holy, Living Lord. Even when we doubt your presence you are faithful to your Word.

Refrain: Grateful for the life you gave us, thankful for your Holy Son, joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love. Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

2. May our lives proclaim your justice, may our voices sing your praise. May our hands work in your service to the glory of your name.

Refrain: Grateful for the life you gave us, thankful for your Holy Son, joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love. Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

AGAPE SERVICE

We are all invited to this common table to share in this Agape feast. At this table we come as sisters, brothers, siblings in the Holy Family of God. God waits to break into our experience. To change our minds. To change our hearts. To change our ways. To help us see the world and the whole of life in a new light. To remind us from which stories we have come, and to inspire us to create new stories for those who come after us. To fill us with hope, joy and certainty for the future!

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

God of steadfast love,
our faith was born
in ancient prisons,
kindled from ashes,
sustained amidst mourning,
and passed to us to light our paths.
We recall with tears and joy
the ones in whom our faith first lived.
We name them now in our hearts.

Pause for silent remembrance, or invite the congregation to offer names out loud.

This is their testimony:
that your love is unceasing,
your mercies are new every morning,
and you are the portion
for those who wait for you.
We recall their testimony
with tears and joy.

Pause for silent remembrance.
God of steadfast love,
write our lives as living love letters
to those who will come after us,
just as our mothers and fathers in the faith
passed love letters of their lives to us.

Amen.

BLESSING OF THE AGAPE MEAL

On this table in the midst of this community with whom Christ is present
symbols were placed to remind us of his promises to us:

A CANDLE to remind us of Jesus who said: "I am the light of the world;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

BREAD, a symbol of Jesus who said: "I am the bread of life; the bread that I give is myself for the life of the world."

WINE, a symbol of a covenant as Jesus said: This is the new covenant – poured for you. I am come that you might have new life – life in full abundance."

A CROSS to remind us that Jesus said: "A new commandment I give you – love one another - even as I have loved you – love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

In remembrance of whom we follow, let us share together the words Jesus taught us:

THE PRAYER OF JESUS / THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, in heaven,
holy is your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

Lord, we welcome your presence among us. May this food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. May our

spirits be refreshed as we live in the light of your presence with us, now and at all times and in all places. I now invite you to sit and enjoy the following meal. Let it be for us a reminder of the community and the love we share.

We will now share together in the feast

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

Our mealtime here has ended and soon we return to the busy lives we lead; as we depart let us not forget the teachings represented in these symbols:

A CANDLE Jesus' light that guides our path.

BREAD, the life of the One given to the world

WINE, the promise of new life in abundance

A CROSS that reminds us in LOVE of our relationship to the divine and to each other.

May the blessing of the Holy Spirit who moves within us and throughout our world, rest upon you and abide with you this day and forever. Amen.

SONG: MV.202 Bread for the Journey Words and music by Bruce Harding

Bread for the journey, food for the way.

Cup of God's blessing tomorrow, today.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Go forth in the promise of God's steadfast love.


We go forth in the promise of God's new mercies.

Go forth as bearers of faith, ancient and new.

We go forth with the kindled faith of our forebears.

May your paths shine with light and love.
Amen.

MUSICAL SENDING: I Can See Clearly Now Words and Music by Johnny Nash, arranged by Michael Woytiuk.

Thank you for joining in worship today 

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.

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

October 9th... Zoom meeting

October 16th: Beaurepaire, World Food Sunday