



Merging Waters United Church
Sunday Morning Worship
MISSION AND MEMORIAL

Sunday, November 6, 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 recognize we are situated on the unceded territories of many nations that have gathered, and continue to gather in this area, and we give thanks for their stewardship and care of the land.

MUSICAL CENTERING

Elegy in Blue and Yellow by Pierre Gallant

REMEMBRANCE: A CANDLE-LIGHTING LITANY

Light a candle at home if you wish!

Loving God, on this day in which we remember and hope for the end to all wars, we offer our confession for the ways in which we have not honoured the promise of the armistice and peace.

We acknowledge that we, as individuals and as a country, have supported the furtherance of wars and rumours of wars with what we have done and said, and with what we have left undone and unsaid. We pray for forgiveness and for the strength to call for peace, and for the transformation of all aspects of our way of living in support of peace. May we always remember those who have died as we seek to be peacemakers, so that their deaths may be honoured with the building of a truly peaceable kingdom. Amen.

And so, let us remember all that has happened in times of war to ensure that we begin to understand why war is never the best answer – no matter the question.

1. We light this candle to remember those of all genders who died in the service to our nation in times of war, on peacekeeping missions, and in conflicts with other countries. We remember especially those whose suffer from the traumatic effects of their service.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

we will remember them.

2. We light this candle to remember victims of war on all sides, especially the most vulnerable: women, children, those who are sick or living with challenges, and elderly people.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

we will remember them.

3. We light this candle to remember the service animals who died in support of the troops: the horses, the dogs, the carrier pigeons.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

we will remember them.

4. We light this candle for the families of all service people. We give thanks for the support and care they have offered and continue to offer, including when their loved ones have returned home.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

we will remember them.

5. We light this candle for our earth and all of creation, recognizing that it, too, is a casualty of war. We acknowledge the ecological destruction of the earth, the sea, and the air, and we pray that our Creator might guide us to restore the ongoing devastation of our natural world.

Loving God, make us co-creators with you.

6. We light this candle for the hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced by war who must seek new homelands, a safe and peaceful place to live, and a fresh start.

Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.

7. We light this candle as a candle of love to remind us that God commands us to forgive one another and to be reconciled to one another.

Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.

8. We light this candle because we believe Jesus is the Light of the World. His light shines in the worst of times, and nothing will ever put it out.

Loving God, let the light of Christ shine in and through our lives.

SONG Voices United 684 – Make me a channel of your peace

**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 Spirit, 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 that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life**

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

In a world of war...

we search for peace.

In a world of confusion...

we search for calm.

In a world of pain...

we search for healing.

In a world of isolation...

we search for communion.

Communion with each other...

and communion with God.

Let us search together...

and let us worship our God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Loving and Gracious God, we hear the protester declare, "Black Lives Matter"; "Women, Life, Freedom"; "Every Child Matters"

In that person, the spirit of Jesus.

We hear the peace-inspired politician speak out: "War solves nothing."

In that person, the spirit of Jesus.

We read the informed journalist's comments, "The effects of climate change are already on us."

In that person, the spirit of Jesus.

We know a refugee family sponsored by a local faith community.

In the caring and growing relationship, the spirit of Jesus.

Our conscience calls us to the compassionate way.

In us, the spirit of Jesus, the Christ.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 145: 1-5, 17-21

I lift you high in praise, my God, O my Creator! and I'll bless your name into eternity. I'll bless you every day, and keep it up from now to eternity.

God is magnificent and can never be praised enough. There are no boundaries to God's greatness.

Generation after generation stands in awe of your work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts. Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking; I compose songs on your wonders.

Your kingdom is a kingdom eternal; you never get voted out of office.

God, you always do what you say, and are gracious in everything you do. You give a hand to those down on their luck, give a fresh start to those ready to quit.

All eyes are on you, expectant; you give them their meals on time.

Generous to a fault, you lavish your favor on all creatures.

Everything God does is right— the trademark on all your works is love.

SONG Voices United 527 – God! As with Silent Hearts

**God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.**

**Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.
We thank you, God, for women, children, men
who seek and save in love, today as then.**

**Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly-born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth,
“lest we forget” the future of this earth.**

**So, God of Peace, disarm our trust in power,
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.
May we, impassioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored.**

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Montreal City Mission – Arwa Nofal

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Put Your Hand in the Hand/ He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
Gene MacLellan/ traditional, arranged by Michael Woytiuk

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We have shared these gifts that they may be used for peace and justice in our world and for the wellbeing of all creation. Guide us, O God, to keep our focus on the needs of others and the needs of this planet, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

SONG More Voices 173 – Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

**Put peace into each other's hand
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hand
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

**Put peace into each other's hand
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
Our life is meant for caring.**

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands,
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out,
the heights of love expressing.**

**Reach out in friendship, stay with faith
in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other's hands;
the Peace that sought and found you.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

For hatred between peoples,
for violence among nations,
for breakdowns in civility, we pray:

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change?

(silence)

For estrangement within families,
for tensions among neighbours, we pray:

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change?

(silence)

For divisions among Christians,
for tension within our nation,
for conflict within our own community, we pray:

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change?

(silence)

For our own inner struggles with inflated ego or deflated self-worth,
for the pressures that worries and fears bring to our lives, we pray:

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change?

(silence)

Receive the promise of God:

Through all these times, amidst all these conditions, God offers the Spirit's transformative power as our companion, guide, and hope.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Mother/Father/Creator in heaven,

Hallowed be 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

Forever and ever. Amen

SONG More Voices 145 – Draw the Circle Wide

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide,

draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle,

God the still-point of the circle,

Round you all creation turns,

Nothing lost but held forever,

in God's gracious arms.

(Refrain)

Let our hearts touch far horizons,

So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
Faithful to God's call.
(Refrain)

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us,
Open every door!
(Refrain)

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Until all children are well educated, we have not learned our lesson.

Unless all languages are spoken freely and fluently, we will suffer in silence.

Until from every faucet flows fresh water, none of us will be clean.

Until every home is safe and warm, we cannot rest.

Until there is freedom for all, we remain in chains.

Unless there is justice is all, we will not know peace.

Until our nation and our world are as God imagines them to be, no dreams will come true.

Let us dream the dream of God, for justice and peace and love for all.

MUSICAL SENDING

Hymn to Freedom

Words by Harriette Hamilton, music by Oscar Peterson

Thank you for joining in worship today 

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UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

November 13 Union Libby Monaco will lead the service with special musical guests, Aeternal Ministries

November 20 Beaurepaire Stewardship Sunday with Jim Fyles and Wendy Hamel

November 27 Union Advent 1

Worship content today was taken from Gathering Pentecost 2 2022 (Year C). Used with permission.

Heather McClure: "Remembrance: A Candle-Lighting Litany"

Richard Bott: Spiritual Focus

David Sparks: Prayer of Approach

Carol Frost: Prayer of Dedication

Peter Chynoweth: Prayers of the Community

Michele Rowe: Commissioning and Benediction

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