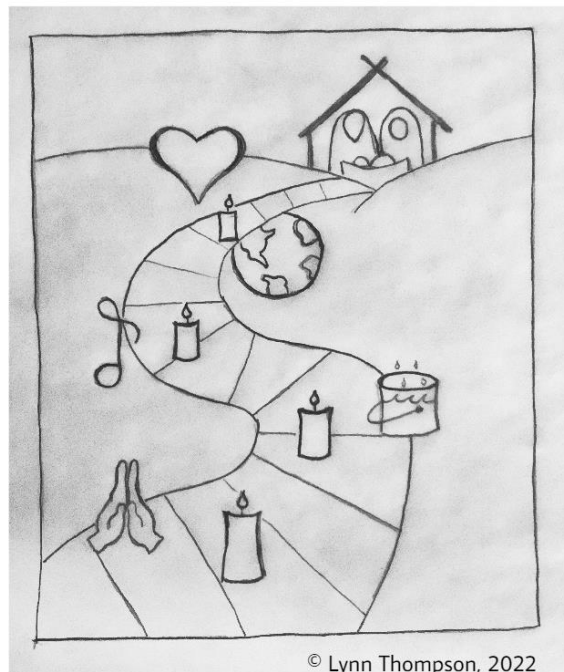


**Merging Waters United Church**

**Sunday Morning Worship**

**FIRST STEPS ON YOUR ROAD TO LOVE: SELF-LOVE**

Sunday, November 27, 2022



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## 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**.

Keep our worship scent-free! To help fellow worshippers with chemical sensitivities, please do not wear perfume or scented products (lotion, hair spray) if attending in person.

***To protect personal privacy, please do not take photos or videos without authorization.***

## LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

### ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

**As we gather, we acknowledge that our church buildings and our homes are located on the traditional land of Indigenous peoples past and present, and we honour with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.**

**We commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.**

### SPIRITUAL FOCUS

*The Guest House*

Rumi

### MUSICAL CENTERING

All of Who You Are

Michael Woytiuk

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Light a candle at home if you wish!

The Word was first,

the Word present to God,

God present to the Word.

**The Word was God,**

**in readiness for God from day one.**

Christ is presented as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ.

Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

**As we enter this Advent season,**

**We open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ.**

**God shows us the creative power of hope,**

**Prepares our hearts to be transformed,**

**That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

**SONG More Voices 221 – I am walking a path of Love**

**I am walking a path of love (3x)**

**Give me hope, lead me home.**

**APPLICATION FOR TODAY**

Why Self-Love?

Sheila Southon

**OFFERING**

(from Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet)

You give but little when you give of your possessions, it is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Traditional German Advent hymn arranged by Kevin Kern

**SONG Voices United 374 – Come and Find the Quiet Centre**

**Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,**

**Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:**

**Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see**

**All the things really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,**

**God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,**

**Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,**

**Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!**

## **MEDITATION**

The Flow of Self Love

### **SONG More Voices 144 – Like a Healing Stream**

**Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,  
Promising revival and rebirth...  
Like a healing stream.**

**Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,  
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,  
Yearning for an end to want and need...  
Like a gentle rain.**

**Like a river strong with a restless current,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,  
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,  
Calling for an end to hate and war...  
Like a river strong.**

**Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:  
God will always challenge and provide!  
Like a mighty sea,  
Like a river strong,  
Like a gentle rain,  
Like a healing stream!**

## **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

God demands nothing less than complete self-surrender as the price for the only real freedom that is worth having.

And when a person thus loses themselves, they immediately find themselves in the service of all that lives.

It becomes their delight and recreation. They are a new person, never weary of spending themselves in the service of God's creation. (Mahatma Gandhi)

## MUSICAL SENDING

It is Well With My Soul  
Lyrics by Horatio Spafford, music by Philip Bliss  
Arranged by Michael Woytiuk

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

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](mailto:mergingwaters@bellnet.ca)

(514) 457-5819

(514) 695-5448

[www.mergingwaters.ca](http://www.mergingwaters.ca)

### UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

November 27, Advent 1 24 Maple – Union	First steps on the Road: Self-love	Sheila Southon Dharana Counselling
December 4, Advent 2 25 Fieldfare – Beaurepaire	Love Through Sharing + White Gift Sunday	Lisa Byer-de Wever St Columba House
December 11, Advent 3 24 Maple – Union	Love Through Simplicity	Rev. Drew Strickland
December 18, Advent 4 25 Fieldfare – Beaurepaire	The Big Picture: Courageous Love	Patti Murphy Merging Waters
December 24, Christmas Eve 24 Maple – Union <b>7:00 pm</b>	Destination: Love, A Celebration	Merging Waters Community