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MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship

Advent 4: Courageous Love, Love in Action!!

December 18, 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 would like to begin by acknowledging that this Merging Waters Gathering Place is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples.

We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal West Island community and beyond.

MUSICAL CENTERING: The Blue Green Hills of Earth by Paul Winter

SPIRITUAL FOCUS:

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE – Light a candle at home if you wish.

In lighting this 4th Advent Candle let's say a prayer together.

I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters.

Your old men will dream, your young men will see visions.

Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story.

There is no greater power than love.

It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

HYMN: More Voices 221 I am walking the path of love

I am walking a path of love,

I am walking a path of love,

I am walking a path of love

, Give me love, lead me home

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Today we have gathered, and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people. **Now our minds are one.**

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Two Stories from the front lines of people in today's world that are taking action on their respect and love for the earth and humankind. Story

#1: Marlene Hale/Chef Maluh Wet'suwet'en Chef, Educator and Activist Story

#2: Susan Hawker, Educator/Activist

OFFERTORY:

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer our gifts to you.

Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING - "You Can Do This Hard Thing"

Words & Music: Carrie Newcomer

Performed by: Myrna Moffat & Michael Woytiuk

HYMN: MORE VOICES 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines

1. My love colours outside the lines, Exploring paths that few could ever find And takes me into places where I've never been before And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

REFRAIN: We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

2. My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine; and takes me into places where I've never been before and opens doors to worlds outside the lines. **REFRAIN**

3. My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine, I want to walk beyond the boundaries, where I've never been before, throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. **REFRAIN**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

Jan will guide us in a group reflection.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: A NEW CREATOR'S PRAYER-

Let us give thanks to our Creator for the Creator is always with us.

God is with us in the call of a loon and in the flight of an eagle.

Our Creator is with us in the changing of the seasons. God is with us when we gather together and when we are alone.

Our Creator is with us in our giftedness and in our search for new understandings of ourselves, new visions of our communities.

Let us give thanks to God, our Creator and the Universe

HYMN: MORE VOICES 135 Called by Earth and Sky (Pat Mayberry)

REFRAIN "Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high,

This is our sacred living trust,

Treasure of life sanctified,

Called by earth and sky.

V1: Precious these waters, endless seas,

Deep ocean's dream,

Waters of healing, rivers of rain,

The wash of love again. **REFRAIN**

.V2: Precious this gift, the air we breathe;

Wind born and free.

Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,

Our gathering and our grace. **REFRAIN**

V3: Precious these mountains, ancient sands;

Vast fragile land.

Seeds of our waking, rooted and strong,

Creation's faithful song. **REFRAIN**

V4: Precious the fire that lights our way,

Bright dawning day.

Fire of passion, sorrows undone,

Our faith and justice one. **REFRAIN**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION –

We come before you and ask for Your strength within us. To refrain from judgment and feast on love. To push out greed and hold tight to joy. To dispel pride and rise with humility. To quell anger and rest in self control. To shun greed and rest in giving. To turn from power and embrace service. To let go of resentment and rest in peace. To push through fear and walk forwards in grace. To run with faith, soar with forgiveness. And allow your eternal strength to abide with us. Amen.

MUSICAL SENDING People Have the Power:

Words & Music by Patti Smith, Fred Smith Performed by Patti Murphy & CHOIR

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

14-Dec-22	Blue Christmas in person 7:30 pm	Cluster service	Cedar Park United Church 204 Lakeview Ave, Pointe-Claire
18-Dec-22	Advent 4 The Big Picture: Courageous Love	Patti Murphy	Beaurepaire
20-Dec-22	Evening of carols 7:30 pm	Merging Waters music leadership	Beaurepaire
24-Dec-22	Destination: Love A Celebration Christmas Eve 7 pm	Merging Waters community	Union
25-Dec-22	Christmas Day No service		
01-Jan-23	New Year's Day	Cluster service	11:00 @ Lakeshore-Trinity 98 Aurora Ave, Pointe-Claire
08-Jan-23	First Sunday after Epiphany	Spare Parts celebrates their 20 th anniversary!	Union

