

Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge



Welcome Grace Service Love
Community



Merging Waters United Church

“INTO THE WILDERNESS”

Sunday, February 26, 2023 -Lent 1

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

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'kehá: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:

Moonlight Sonata 1st movement Beethoven

CANDLE LIGHTING

Light a candle at home if you wish!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Come into the wilderness.

Come away from the world and all that is so familiar, and begin wandering through all that lives here.

We see there is life here.

It is not as barren as we had thought.

Come into the wilderness and discover that you are not alone.

We are together in this sacred place.

We come to find ourselves changed and restored in this wilderness together

SONG

Be Not Afraid

John Michael Talbot

PRAYER OF APPROACH

God of love and mercy, we come together from different places.

Some of us arrive content, others muddled and fractured, and others somewhere between.

We aren't sure what we will find wandering through this wilderness.

**We pray you will guide us,
making room for all we are,
and inviting us to be renewed.**

Help us to embrace your joy and find hope arising anew.

Amen.

LITANY

(from PWS&D Litanies for Lent 2023, by Ian Fraser and Jim Goring)

Lent I

Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty.

There we confront our weakness and insecurities.

In the wilderness, we, too, are starving and thirsty.

**We, too, are tempted to grab at empty promises
that offer an easy way out.**

Like Jesus, we are tempted by power and prestige.

Unlike him, we often submit to their glamour.

We wonder whether God is with us.

We wonder whether we can trust God to take care of us.

We can only move forward in faith.

Let us stand on the cliff edge and, like Jesus, dare to trust.

HYMN MORE VOICES # 79

Spirit, Open My Heart

YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4: 1 - 11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, **“If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”**

Jesus answered, **“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:**

“He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, **“It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”**

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”**

Jesus said to him, **“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”**

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Into The Wilderness

HYMN MORE VOICES #8

And on This Path

OFFERING

OFFERATORY HYMN MV#187

We Give Our Thanks/Reamo Leboga

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take these gifts we offer, loving God, and use them for your work.

Take our very selves – our hopes, our dreams, our plans, our wonderings –

and use them, too, to make your world a better place.

We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

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

HYMN MORE VOICES # 202

Bread for The Journey


COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

The wilderness can be a lonely place where we go alone,
 but the Spirit leads Christ there.
 It is the Spirit that sends us out into this world to love and serve.
 Go with the faith that you are held in grace and surrounded by love. Amen.

MUSICAL SENDING:

River in Judea, Lyrics by

Linda Marcus , arrangement Michael Woytiuk

Thank you for joining in worship today 

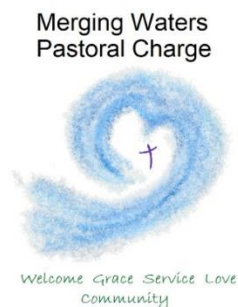
MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the
 United Church of Canada

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UPCOMING SERVICES @ 10:30am

26-Feb-23	Lent 1	Fieldfare
5-Mar-23	Lent 2	Maple
12-Mar-23	Lent 3 Merging Waters annual meeting Bring your lunch!	Fieldfare
19-Mar-23	Lent 4 Celebration of covenant between Lisa Byer-de Wever and Merging Waters United Church 2 pm with reception to follow Note: No morning service	Maple
26-Mar-23	Lent 5	Fieldfare
2-Apr-23	Palm/Passion Sunday	Maple
6-Apr-23	Maundy Thursday	TBD
7-Apr-23	Good Friday	TBD
9-Apr-23	Easter Sunday	Fieldfare