



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Take a Page from Mary's Journal, Advent II: "For Better or Worse"

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 we at Merging Waters live, work, worship, and play on the unceded and unsundered lands of the Kanienkeha:ka Peoples.

As we journey towards the birth of Jesus once again, we remember everything this birth means for our whole world and all people: hope, peace, joy, and love. May we live our lives moving gently in creation, listening, learning, and striving to be people of reconciliation.

Jessica Knoyle, Ottawa, Ont.

CENTERING SONG

Mv 134 There Was a Child in Galilee

GATHERING PRAYER

Christmas is a time of anticipation.
We can hardly wait.

Christmas is a time of giving.

We are ready to receive.

Christmas is a time of hope and promise.

We are looking for it.

Could it be? Is it here? Let us come and see;

Let us open ourselves to the wonder of it all.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Advent II: Peace

Arise, take courage, and catch a glimpse of peace!

All: The warm glow of the Divine lightens our hearts.

We are together, not alone. In spirit and in community we gather on this second Sunday in Advent in solidarity and with courage to partner for a world full of peace where all of creation will flourish. Our witness is to and for peace.

All: Peace is real and possible. In solidarity we pray, work, and wait for its blossoming.

God-of-peace-and-possibility, kindle in the hearts of all compassion and love so that goodness, just deeds, the common good, and trust may flourish. Bless and gift all with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all. In the name of the Child, the peaceful one.

ADVENT HYMN VU#6

A Candle Is Burning v.2

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SONG

Pippin the Christmas Pig

Adaptation of VU56 Jesus our Brother Kind and Good, Arrangement by M. Woytiuk

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:18-25 -New International Version

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

MARY’S JOURNAL:

“For Better or Worse”

SONG

Getting to Know You –
Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

HYMN More Voices # 90

Don’t Be Afraid

OFFERING

STEWARDSHIP SECONDS

DOXOLOGY Voices United # 55

In the Bleak Midwinter Verse 4

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**
Lift up your hearts, **we lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
it is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy are you God for your mercy is endless. You have
filled all creation with light and life and your glory.
stretches throughout the heavens.

And we say together **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

Your Spirit calls us now, where we are, to gather all people
into our celebration, and in remembrance of Jesus’ life
we say together
Christ has died,

**Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

Send O God your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do
here that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love to one another and to the world.

And we say together,
**through Christ,
with Christ
and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours,
God most holy –
now and forever
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING IN THE FEAST

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For the bread we have eaten,
for the cup we have shared,
for the life we have received,
we thank you God.
Grant that we may grow in love and understanding,
and that our lives may be lived in faith. Amen

HYMN More Voices # 202

Bread for The Journey

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER VOICES UNITED #960 SUNG

CLOSING SONG

Let There Be Peace on Earth


Words and music by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING

Be not afraid!
Choose Love!
Go forth with a dream in your soul,
and a song in your heart,
knowing that God's promises are always fulfilled.
The time is almost here.
Get ready for wonder!

SENDING/SONG

Go in Peace
Music and lyrics by Brian Tate

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.

December 10 Third Sunday of Advent	Take a Page from Mary's Journal Advent 3: Sharing the Burden All Ages and Generations Celebrate the Story
December 17 Fourth Sunday of Advent	Take a Page from Mary's Journal Advent 4: Kindness of Strangers
December 24 No morning service. Christmas Eve service 7 pm	Take a Page from Mary's journal Christmas Eve: Unconditional Love An evening of story, song, and candle lighting