



## Merging Waters United Church

Sunday Morning Worship March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

### WELCOME / BIENVENUE

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome.

Toutes et tous sont bienvenus, peu importe l'âge, l'identité ou les conditions de vie.

Wherever you are, whoever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship.

Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans l'amour et la communauté pour louer Dieu ensemble.

Wherever we are, we're close in one another's hearts.

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

Before we begin our worship with language that is ancient and music that comes from intentional community it is important to acknowledge other ancient and intentional communities. Ancient and modern people and peoples have inhabited and continue to inhabit this land on which we worship.

Response: This is the traditional land of the Kaniienkeha:Ka, Huron-Wendat and Anishnaabe Peoples, and we are deeply grateful to be here and to ground ourselves in the land which has been a place where people have lived for thousands of years.

*Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane, Alta.*

## MUSICAL CENTERING

XX

XX

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**  
Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**  
Hallelujah!

## THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

Easter God, the wick is ignited and the light of hope and transformation is before us. How amazing that a single beam of light can change our way of experiencing life. May we rest in the glow of Christ's love, ever radiating sparks of peace and a new dawn. Amen.

*Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.*

## OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and power,  
we have longed and prepared for this joyous day:  
on Ash Wednesday we humbled ourselves before you,  
on Maundy Thursday we learnt a new commandment,  
on Good Friday we cried at the foot of the cross,  
on Holy Saturday we kept vigil,  
and on this Blessed Sunday we rejoice in the risen power of  
love, hope, and new life.  
Make this rising real in our own lives.  
Let us be people of love, hope, and new life.  
Let us be people of joy.  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## HYMN: XX

XX

## SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18 NRSVUE

### The Resurrection of Jesus

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

### Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## APPLICATION FOR TODAY

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Welcome

Statement of Purpose

Prayer

Statement of Purpose

**Presentation of Candidate**  
**Affirmation of Faith - New Creed**

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

**Promises of Parents**

**Participation of Godparents**

**Congregational Promise**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving – Pouring of the Water**

**The Act of Baptism/Marking with the Sign of the Cross**

**Declaration & Congregational Welcome & Blessing**

**Baptismal Candle**

**Baptismal Song**

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING: xx**

xx

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving God, we ask you to receive these gifts of our hearts and of our hands.  
Please use them in the name of Jesus, our risen Christ. Amen.

## PASSING THE PEACE

## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

### THE PRAYER OF JESUS / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother, Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy 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 them that 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

### COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

May the love of the risen Christ nourish and sustain us.  
May the eternal light of the world renew and inspire us to lives  
of care and compassion.  
May we go forward and be the body of the risen Christ.  
Amen

### MUSICAL SENDING

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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  
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Merging Waters  
United Church



Welcome Grace Service Love  
Community

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

April 7	Second of Easter Communion
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