

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge

Online Worship
Sunday March 29th, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome in the Merging Waters family. Wherever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship. Physically distant but close in one another's hearts.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

* **Indicates when the congregation stands as able**

Bold print for congregational response

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples and nations. Merging Waters honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

LIGHTING THE LIGHT OF LIFE *light a candle at home if it is safe to do so*

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

God of darkness and light,

Open our eyes to your justice.

Source of Goodness and glory,

Open our minds to your wisdom.

Spirit of mercy and kindness,

Open our hearts to your love.

HYMN VU 376

Spirit Of The Living God

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"

I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

HYMN MV 83

Let My Spirit Always Sing

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

From Dry Bones to New Life

OFFERING

We offer our prayer, reflections, and resources

If you are not on [pre-authorized remittance \(PAR\)](#) and want to continue to support Merging Waters please click these links, or those provided on the site to give to: [Union Church](#) or [Beaurepaire United](#) through [CanadaHelps.org](#)

MUSICAL OFFERING

As performed at Union Road Show 2015

Inner Peace

Words: The Dalai Lama Music: Karl Jerkins

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May these gifts provide for your work to be done.
May they bring hope to those in fear and peace to those in despair.
Revealing love through the work they support. Amen.

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

THE JESUS PRAYER FOR TODAY

O, Source of Life

Connectedness beyond simple perception,
We hold our experience of you as sacred.
May we choose to live the good you call for
In our lives as well as our imaginings.
Nourish our bodies and spirits inspiring us
To share the abundance we have.
Challenge us to show understanding and love for others
As we need to be understood and loved.
Help us overcome our shortcomings
To be our best selves
As you have, do, and will always know we can
Forever and ever.
May we all make it so.
Amen

HYMN VU 409

Morning Has Broken

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

You'll Never Walk Alone
As performed at the Union Road Show 2012
by Rogers and Hammerstein
arranged by Pierre Gallant
inspired and adapted from Nina Simone

Thank you to for joining us in worship

MERGING WATERS PASTORAL CHARGE

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

UNION CHURCH

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

« An Affirming Congregation »

Pierre Gallant; Union Musician

Email: piregnt@hotmail.com

&

BEAUREPAIRE UNITED CHURCH

BEACONSFIELD, QUE.

Michael Woytiuk; Ministry of Music

Rev. Ryan Fea, Ordained Minister

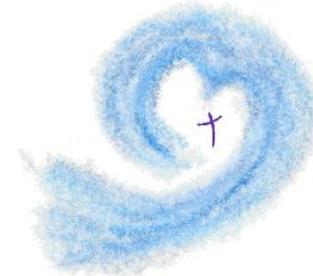
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Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge



Welcome Grace Service Love
Community

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

March 29th. Lent 5 Online worship
April 5th. Palm Sunday Online worship
April 9th. Good Friday
April 12th. Easter Sunday
April 19th. Second Sunday of Easter
Worship at Merging Waters: www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online

Would you like to get on Pre-Authorised Remittance?

[Download the PAR Form](#), print and send it in with a void cheque to either:

Union Church
24 Maple
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
Qc, H9X 2E6

Beaurepaire United
25 Avenue Fieldfare
Beaconsfield,
QC H9W 4W4

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Spiritual Focus from *Eggs and Ashes* by Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill pp. 82-83.
Prayer of Approach adapted from **Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent** was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dille, Minister and Team Leader for MESA, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team. Copyright 2020, Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
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HYMN LYRICS

Voices United 376

Spirit Of The Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the Living God, fill our lives with love!

Voice United 409

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

More Voices 83

Let My Spirit Always Sing

Let my spirit always sing,
though my heart be wintering.
Though the season of despair
give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong,
let there always be a song.

Though my body be confined,
let your word engage my mind,
let the inner eye discern
how much more there is to learn,
see the world becoming whole
through the window of the soul.

Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change,
to accept, and not estrange,
let my joy be full and deep
in the knowledge that I keep.

Let my spirit always sing,
to your Spirit answering,
through the silence, through the pain know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust your love, through life and death.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office is closed but work of the church continues.

LOVE is patient
is kind
it does not envy
it does not boast
it is not proud
it is not rude
it is not self seeking
it is not easily angered
it keeps no record of wrongs
never fails

Please be patient when sending messages to the office through email or over the phone as Susan Smith, office administrator extraordinaire, like Rev. Ryan and other staff, will work from home for the foreseeable future, to keep the life of the community safe, growing, and adapting to life today.

Gatherings Postponed: As we all deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 virus on daily life it both Merging Waters Pastoral Charge preaching points will be closing their buildings for time being. The buildings will be checked in on regularly by members of the buildings committees. Many groups have halted their gathering practice and gone online, remember to check their websites or call if you are still deciding to head out.

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is a community that cares: In this time of trial we are here for one another. Rev. Ryan and the pastoral care team are here for you and available through email, phone, and instant messenger. Please reach out to one another in support – stay in touch with others and ask for help when you need it. We may not be in the same room but we are in one another's hearts and in the love of God. We aren't sharing germs but we are sharing the love. Keep in touch.

Rev. Ryan Fea:

ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com

Ivy Lewis Union Pastoral Care Chair: lewisir@hotmail.com

Diane Nene Bearepaire Pastoral Care Coordinator:

dianenener@icloud.com



Spiritual Practices: We aren't meeting in-person but we are still supporting those practices that nurture the faith life of the community. Check out the new Merging Waters Web resources at www.mergingwaters.ca Click on "Spiritual Life" in the menu and find new pages dedicated to at-home yoga, meditation and contemplation, and our online worship. Keep an eye out for new option for connecting with Rev. Ryan for times of study/discussion, reflection, and prayer online.

Church Online: Worship will be held online Sundays at 10:30 am. Please join us at www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/ and you will find videos, music, and the opportunity to make your weekly offerings. On top of allowing us to worship together while physically distancing you also have no parking problems, you can refill your coffee anytime, church in your pajamas, you can mute the pastor – but don't.



Please note that the planned joint worship at Summerlea United Church for March 29th has been postponed, we will continue to worship online.

Joy And Concern: Are there individuals and situations that you would ask that we pray for aloud in the time of prayer at this week's online worship? Please email them to Rev. Ryan at ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com by Friday night. If you miss the time to submit any not included in the service will be prayed for in our hearts or during next week by the prayer circle.

Lent discipline: An environmental challenge

One of the advantages of living in a free market economy is that we have choices about what we buy and how we buy it. What we often lack is information about how things are produced and a full understanding of the implications of a particular product choice (materials used, expected working life of the product, practicality of repair). By exercising informed choice we put pressure on producers to work in more environmentally conscious ways.

Actions Choose two or three of these:

- Buy only what you need
- Repair and reuse rather than replace
- Check through the products you bought last year. How useful were they?
- Buy second-hand goods
- Make a list before you shop for food/household goods to avoid buying things you don't need
- Cook from primary ingredients (e.g. use fresh vegetables rather than processed food)
- Use the Mailing Preference Service to remove your name from junk mail lists
- Subscribe to a magazine like Ethical Consumer
- Eat vegetarian
- Eat vegan

Researching and campaigning

Choose one of these:

- Research the environmental behaviour/records of the companies you buy things from
- Write to your MP about improving labelling information on food and household goods

Prayer

Bless Our Choices

God bless this food,
locally grown,
produced in season.
God bless this food,
fairly traded,
giving new chances,
bringing new life.

Forgive our demands
for cheap food that costs the earth,
for cash crops from subsistence land,
for strawberries in December.

Forgive our ignorance
leading to hidden slaves,
dangerous conditions,
child labour.

God bless our choices
that, like lights in the open,
they may reveal your will, your kin-dom.

Chris Polhill