

# MERGING WATERS PASTORAL CHARGE

Sunday Morning Worship  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

## Epiphany

WELCOME

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

welcome in the Merging Waters family.  
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.



LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

**Bold print** indicates text to read/sing/pray in unison

### 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 and live today.**

MUSICAL CENTERING

Mystery Of The Star  
music: Pierre Gallant

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

*light a candle at home if it is safe to do so*

CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW

**We Are A Rainbow**  
by David Kai (verse 1 & chorus)

**We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,  
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,  
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more,  
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.**

**We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,  
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,  
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,  
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**



## **SPIRITUAL FOCUS**

A light is gleaming, spreading its rays throughout the night,

**We are living in the light.**

Share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright,

**We are living in the light.**

## **HYMN VOICES UNITED 91**

## **The First Nowell**

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Refrain:**

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]**

**And by the light of that same star  
the wise ones came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]**

**Then entered in those wise ones three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]**

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]**



## PRAYER OF APPROACH

Blessed are you, O God creator of the star seeded heavens and the renewing earth. We have seen your star of hope, and have knelt at the cradle of your love. Your Spirit, shines forth within and between us in the newness of this year:

As we journey towards you  
with the Wise Ones of old,  
bringing our gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh,  
and raising our voices in song ...

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;**

but God will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you.

**Nations shall come to our light,  
and kings to the brightness of our dawn.**

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;

**our sons shall come from far away,  
and our daughters shall be carried  
on their nurses' arms.**

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

**because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to us,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to us.**

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

**They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of God.**



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

**'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'**"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

**When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.**

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.**

~ THE STORY OF THE FOURTH MAGI ~

OFFERING

*We offer our prayer, time, talent, 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

Sanctuary

Music and words: Carrie Newcomer  
Vocals: Myrna Moffat  
Piano: Pierre Gallant

CHORAL DEDICATION VOICES UNITED 55

**In The Bleak Midwinter**  
(verse 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**



## PRAYERS OF CONCERN AND JOY

### 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

### COMMISSIONING HYMN VOICES UNITED 43

### Go Tell It On The Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born. *(Jesus Christ is X3 on final refrain)*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]



# COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

## MUSICAL SENDING

The Light In Us Leaped Up

Words: Malcolm Guite  
Music: Pierre Gallant

Thank you to for joining us today

### 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](mailto:piregnt@hotmail.com)

&

### BEAUREPAIRE UNITED CHURCH BEACONSFIELD, QUE.

Michael Woytiuk; Ministry of Music

Rev. Ryan Fea, Ordained Minister  
[ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com)

Susan Smith, Office Administrator  
[mergingwaters@bellnet.ca](mailto:mergingwaters@bellnet.ca) (514) 445-2618

[www.mergingwaters.ca](http://www.mergingwaters.ca)

### Merging Waters Pastoral Charge



Welcome Grace Service Love  
Community

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

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> .	Epiphany
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> .	Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup> .	Second Sunday After Epiphany
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup> .	Third Sunday After Epiphany
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup> .	Shared West Island Worship Service 10 am

Worship at Merging Waters: Sunday [www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online](http://www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online)

Links for the Zoom Service will be available at on that page

Download the Zoom App at [zoom.us/download](https://zoom.us/download)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Friday Church Café** – Will return in the New Year. Grab a cocoa and log-on for chat and community Friday afternoons **2 pm until 3 pm** on Zoom **Fridays Jan 8<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> CHURCH CAFÉ** Join Rev. Ryan on Friday afternoons as we explore topics of each season and engage in themed discussions.



Join in January online <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83863371519>  
or by phone +1 438 809 7799 Canada Meeting ID: 838 6337 1519

## SPECIAL THEME DISCUSSION

Please join **Dr Eric Norris** and **Rev. Ryan Fea** in discussion during Church Café of Jan 8th at 2 pm.

Come share your perspectives and insights into this dynamic subject.

Craig Minowa and Cloud Cult – **Music as Medicine**  
On Being with Krista Tippett – an Interview



Image by Pexels from Pixabay

Craig Minowa is a Minnesota based singer-songwriter and founder of a band called Cloud Cult. Their music is best described as “quirky” but there is usually a deeper underlying message. Craig and his wife Connie had their life turned upside down one morning in 1995 to find their one-year old son, Kaidin, had died in his sleep. This devastating experience has made them search for solace and life’s meaning through their music. The music that has emerged ever since has spanned the human experience from the rawest grief to the fiercest hope. Craig’s musical spiritual quest has carried him as far as the contemplation of humanity’s place in Einstein’s curvilinear space-time continuum which we inhabit. Krista’s interview with Craig is interspersed with snippets of Craig’s unique compositions. Listen to the podcast and then come join the discussion.

Podcast: <https://onbeing.org/programs/craig-minowa-cloud-cult-music-as-medicine/>

**Church Café for January** : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83863371519>  
or by phone +1 438 809 7799 Canada Meeting ID: 838 6337 1519



Many thanks to all who were involved in spreading cheer this season along with the **Merging Waters Christmas Elves**. All those who shared their baking, special messages of community and hope, pastoral care coordinators and many volunteers who reached out to share love and care for members of the community in new and safe ways.

You’ve shown us that even at the worst of times we can stay true to our call to love one another and be open to the Spirit calling us to new ways.

Another big THANK YOU to all those who shared story and song, music and craft in the **12 Days Before Christmas** brought to us by Pierre Gallant and many others who contributed to this fun reminder of the Spirit of Christmas. This limited-edition online event was a wonderful way to share cheer, creativity, and community. Another way that we have shown the world that we remain in unity and live in hope even in the face of difficulty. It's not what we are used to but it sure was beautiful



**Gifts with Vision Catalogues** have arrived! But since they will be at the church buildings, you will have to use the internet to see the inspiring programs the United Church is supporting. The perfect gift: <https://giftswithvision.ca/>

**Suitcases for Africa** – Thank you to Suitcases for Africa for sharing their Fair Trade hand made nativity scenes with us for our Christmas Eve Service. If you are still looking for just the right gift for someone special on your list? Want to get a head start on next year's gift giving? May I suggest checking out the Suitcases for Africa Facebook page or Suitcases for Africa Facebook Market Page. Our website: [suitcasesforafrica.com](https://suitcasesforafrica.com) has a link for some great indoor plants that are still available. The web site also highlights our Gift Card Campaign. Below are just a few of many, many gift ideas. Please call Wendy Buchanan for information: 514-992-5500.



Kisii Angels



Leather animal key chains



Carved Nativity



Kazuri keychains



Carved Masks



Cyclist tree ornaments

**Ebi Kimanani Scholarship fundraiser** – Beautiful pillowcases made by Linda Toivanen: all season two pairs and 5 singles; Christmas two pairs and one single. Pairs are \$25 and singles \$13. Cheques can be made to Beaurepaire United with Caring for Kenya in the op/info line. Inquiries to Susan Cruickshank, [susanc394@hotmail.com](mailto:susanc394@hotmail.com) or 514-694-3382



**Send a Card.** Caring for Kenya, Ebi Kimanani Scholarship Cards to celebrate Christmas are available, never too early for next year. A donation of \$10 per card contributes to the cost of sending 16 girls and boys to Secondary School in Western Kenya. Should you simply wish to donate to the Ebi Kimanani Scholarship fund and not select cards you may do so. A donation of your choosing can be made by cheque to Beaurepaire United Church with Caring for Kenya in the memo line. This could be delivered or posted to Beaurepaire United or Union Church. All donations will be added to your church donations for this year.

**Fund a Student. Avoid crowded shops, Stay safe.**



Pre-ordered Cards, in an envelope with your name, could be collected from the mail- box outside my front door at 394 Church St., Beaconsfield, cnr Greenwood, just down the street from Christ Church and minutes from Beaurepaire United.

Payment by etransfer to Susan Cruickshank as Payee, use email address [susanc394@hotmail.com](mailto:susanc394@hotmail.com) use **Kenya2020** as password.

**OR** cheque to Beaurepaire United with 'Caring for Kenya' in the memo line **OR** Cash.

If this process is difficult for you, arrangements for some deliveries could be made. For more information and to order cards **Contact** Susan at [susanc394@hotmail.com](mailto:susanc394@hotmail.com) or 514-694-3382



**Gifts for St. Columba House** Saint Columba House is a bustling place these days. In response to the COVID crisis, they have transformed their services to meet rising needs in the community. All food is now packaged, labelled and delivered to local homes. Over 100 hours of wellness workshops are being offered to help build community and alleviate loneliness. For families who do not have computers and printers, they are printing out and delivering needed educational resources. They have created a relief fund to meet increasing costs due to the pandemic and their goal is \$35,000.

Since Merging Waters was unable to hold the events where we would traditionally give white gifts, mittens and food, we invite you to donate to St. Columba House directly. You can do this online at [saintcolumbahouse.org](http://saintcolumbahouse.org) (follow the "Donate" links) OR you can send a cheque to Saint Columba House, 2365 Grand Trunk, Montreal, QC H3K 1M8.

Even a small donation can go a long way. In this time of challenge let's bring light and hope that we find in community to others.

**Willing Voices Wanted** – We are looking for a few volunteers to announce the Community News and read scripture during our live Zoom services. Please let Christine know if you are interested, at [cbmw@bell.net](mailto:cbmw@bell.net)

Lynn Thompson is still making Christmas and other occasion cards. If you are interested drop her and email at: [lynnathompson3@icloud.com](mailto:lynnathompson3@icloud.com) She prefers cash, but no e-transfers.

### **Interment Lots for Sale**

Union Church has two double interment lots for sale. All four lots are located side-by-side in the Garden of the Last Supper in Rideau Memorial Gardens, boulevard des Sources, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec. Each lot can accommodate either one casket and two cremated remains or no caskets and three cremated remains. Rideau Memorial Gardens sell similar lots for \$4500.00 plus taxes. Your cost to purchase from Union Church would be \$4000.00 for one lot or \$7500 for a double lot. Enquiries: David Lewis (Chair, Board of Trustees) 514-457-9139, [david.lewis@mcgill.ca](mailto:david.lewis@mcgill.ca)

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*

**Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is a community that cares** - Our Pastoral Care team is there to help you with your concerns.

**Ivy Lewis** Union Pastoral Care Chair: [lewisir@hotmail.com](mailto:lewisir@hotmail.com) &

**Diane Nener** Beaufort Pastoral Care Coordinator: [dianenener@icloud.com](mailto:dianenener@icloud.com)

Stay connected even at a distance

**A reminder:** we do have the prayer circle made up of members from both Union and Beaufort and that if they do have any **prayer requests** to let me know [lewisir@hotmail.com](mailto:lewisir@hotmail.com).



**Spiritual Practices** - on our website check out Spiritual Life for links to Worship at Home – Yoga at Home – Spiritual Centering.

[www.mergingwaters.ca](http://www.mergingwaters.ca)

Want to start your day with prayer? Check out Rev Darryl Macdonald's **Celtic Meditations** on the Roxboro United Church Facebook weekday mornings at 9 am.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/roxborounited>

