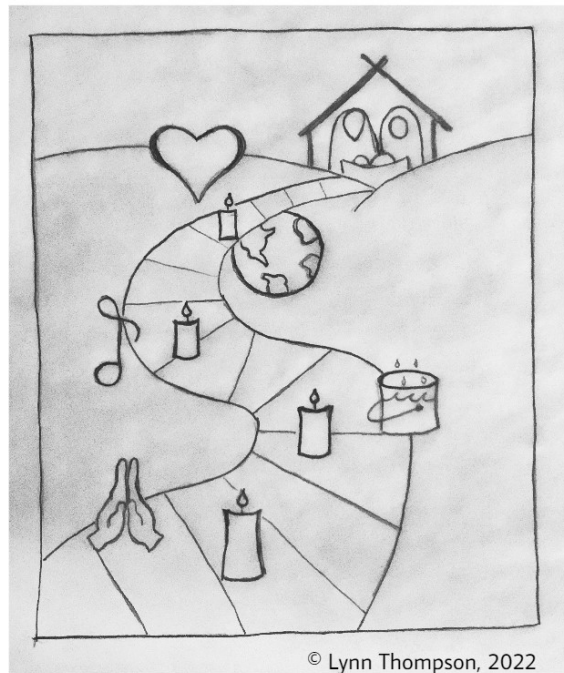




Merging Waters United Church
Sunday Morning Worship
YOUR ROAD TO LOVE:
LOVE THROUGH SIMPLICITY

Advent 3

Sunday, December 11, 2022



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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

As we gather, we acknowledge that our church buildings and our homes are located on the traditional land of Indigenous peoples past and present, and we honour with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We also acknowledge the harm caused by settlers and their descendants to Indigenous peoples and lands, and commit ourselves to reconciliation and better stewardship.

MUSICAL CENTERING

Nothing But a Child (Steve Earle)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Light a candle at home if you wish!

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Let us remember that it can be that simple: be patient and open ourselves to joy.

We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.

We are filled with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

We will find what makes us joyful,

And make that our gift to the world.

SONG More Voices 221 – I am walking a path of Love

I am walking a path of love (3x)

Give me joy, lead me home.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Love through Simplicity

SONG More Voices 89 – Love is the Touch

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;

Love is the force that no fear can destroy;

Love is the goodness we gladly applaud:

God is where love is, for love is of God.

2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;

Love is the hope that can make us rejoice;

Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:

God is where love is, for love is of God.

3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;

Love is the will to be whole once again;

Love is the trust of a friend on the road:

God is where love is, for love is of God.

4. Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son;

Love is the kingdom their will has begun;

Love is the pathway the saints all have trod:

God is where love is, for love is of God.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12: 27, 31 – 14:1

You are the body of Christ and individually members of it. Strive for the greater gifts, and I will show you a more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not

have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not envious or boastful, arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes and endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will come to an end. As for tongues, they will cease. As for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part. But when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child. I thought and reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part, then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. Faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love. Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

The Sermon That Never Ends

MUSIC

The Rebel Jesus (Jackson Browne)

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

This Love Will Carry (Dougie MacLean)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SONG Voices United 372 – Though I May Speak

- 1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**
- 2. Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.**
- 3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;**

By this we worship, and are freed.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother/ Father/ Creator in heaven,

hallowed be 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

forever and ever. Amen.

SONG More Voices 213 – Take Up His Song

1. Take up his song of peace and go into the world.

Take up his song of peace in every moment.

In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;

lay them down in peace, lay them down, and take up his song!

2. Take up his song of hope and go into the world.

Take up his song of hope in every moment.

In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;

lay them down in hope, lay them down, and take up his song!

3. Take up his song of love and go into the world.

Take up his song of love in every moment.

**In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
lay them down in love, lay them down, and take up his song!**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Children Go Where I Send Thee (Traditional)

Children go where I send thee: how will I send thee?
I'm gonna send you twelve by twelve
Twelve for the twelve apostles
Eleven for the eleven that went on to heaven
Ten for the ten commandments
Nine for the nine in the choir divine
Eight for the eight the flood wouldn't take
Seven for the seven that never got to heaven
Six for the days when the world got fixed
Five for the gospel preachers
Four for the four that stood at the door
Three for the Hebrew children
Two for Paul and Silas
One for the little bitty baby boy
Born of the virgin Mary
Who was born, born, who was born in Bethlehem

Thank you for joining in worship today ❤️

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada

Union building @ 24 Maple, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

Beaurepaire building @ 25 Fieldfare, Beaconsfield

Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music

Jo-Anne Windover, Office Administrator

mergingwaters@bellnet.ca

(514) 457-5819

(514) 695-5448

www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES

13-Dec-22	Blue Christmas online 7 pm	Cluster service	Online - Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82875480376
14-Dec-22	Blue Christmas	Cluster service	Cedar Park United Church

	in person 7:30 pm		204 Lakeview Ave, Pointe-Claire
18-Dec-22	Advent 4 The Big Picture: Courageous Love 10:30 a.m.	Patti Murphy	Beaurepaire
20-Dec-22	Evening of carols 7:30 pm	Merging Waters music team	Beaurepaire
24-Dec-22	Christmas Eve 7 pm	Merging Waters community	Union
25-Dec-22	Christmas Day No service		
01-Jan-23	New Year's Day 11:00 am	Cluster service	Lakeshore-Trinity 98 Aurora Ave, Pointe-Claire