



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday Morning Worship

Following the Call

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Third after Epiphany

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Where do the Sparkles Come From?

lyrics and music by Michael Woytiuk

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We acknowledge that the lands our churches and many of our homes sit on have been stewarded by the first peoples of Turtle Island, among them the Kanien'kehá:ka, "Mohawk" peoples, as well as nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the neighbouring Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabeg, and Abenaki peoples. We commit ourselves as a faith community to

the multi-generational work of reconciliation, the pursuit of true justice and flourishing well-being for all peoples who now call Canada home.

MUSICAL CENTERING: More Voices #97

Listen, God is Calling

CANDLE LIGHTING

Light a candle at home if you wish!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

O God, you are our light and salvation.

Still, we fear.

There is so much

that remains unknown and uncertain.

We push against you, but you will not push us away.

You hold us close.

When we wonder what the day might bring,

you whisper, "follow me, I will make you:

readers to little children, bandagers of bruised hearts,

lovers of the forsaken, pilgrims who show the way to others."

We ask so much of you, O God.

We want your beauty and comfort.

We need your strength and peace.

You hear our cries

and answer us with your endless grace and love.

You are our joy.

Amen.

SONG: Voices United #563

Jesus, You Have Come to The Lakeshore

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Holy One,

we have so many questions

but we don't pause to listen

to your still small voice

to your invitation to follow

to your call to serve

to your affirmation of our gifts.

Instead, we push forward.

We do what needs to be done,

without aim or direction,

responding to the most immediate

demand for our attention.

We cross it off the list and

move on to the next.

Forgive us.

Forgive us for

our preoccupation

and our self-importance.

Call us again to seek your face

and follow the Christ.

We are listening now. (Silence is kept)

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Dear Child of God, God is listening.

God has heard your prayer and wishes you peace.

God forgives you and loves you.

This is the good news. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:12–23

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Following the Call

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

From Cantata BWV 147, Bach-Gesellschaft Edition (public domain) J.S. Bach

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We are called to follow, yet are often slow to respond, God
of grace.

**We are blessed with more than we ever need or can use,
yet we are reluctant to part with even a portion of this
abundance.**

As we offer our gifts to you,
remind us that learning generosity is part of our call to follow
the One who models your gracious nature in every
word, every gesture, every day.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

THE PRAYER OF JESUS / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/Creator, in heaven,

holy is 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

SONG: More Voices #140

Long As We Follow (Na Nzela Naola)

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Go now, beloved,

to follow the love of God

to be surprised by God's wonder

to lift your voice for love and compassion.

Dare to believe that you are people

on a mission of healing and grace.


Feel God's encouragement

to be a blessing as you offer blessings

with your heart and hands and

know that you never, ever go alone. **AMEN**

MUSICAL SENDING: Day by Day by Stephen Schwartz

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

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UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

Date	Themes/ Notes	location
15-Jan-23	Second after Epiphany A call	Fieldfare
22-Jan-23	Third after Epiphany fishers of men	Maple
29-Jan-23	Fourth after Epiphany fifth Sunday - cluster service chili lunch	Roxboro United Church, 116 Rue Cartier, Roxboro, QC H8Y 1G8
05-Feb-23	Fifth after Epiphany Greatness of Heart Spare Parts	Maple
12-Feb-23	Sixth after Epiphany "From the heart"	Fieldfare