



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday Morning Worship

Transfiguration Sunday: Sacred Encounters

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Special Guest Speaker Akilah Newton

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

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:

Praise God for This Holy Ground

music by John L. Bell, piano 4 hands arrangement by Pierre Gallant

CANDLE LIGHTING

Light a candle at home if you wish!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Let us see a wonder a vision never seen. Do we dare to journey?

Yes, for God is there.

Let us start a journey close to God's hill.

Let us tell the world what God will now fulfill. Do we dare to journey?

Yes, for God is there.

Let us start a journey to worship in this place.

Let us seek our God and meet God face to face. Do we dare to journey?

Yes, for God is here.

Amen

SONG: Voices United # 82

A Light Is Gleaming

PRAYER OF APPROACH

We may not be able to climb a hill for you, O God,

but we gather to worship you in this place.

We may never see you transfigured in glory in our presence,

but we witness to your transforming power in our living.

We may not have the words to explain all that you are,

but we have hearts that want to worship all that you are.

Enable us to meet you in your glory around us,

that we may worship you in truth and love.

Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING

Hymn to Freedom

music by Oscar Peterson, words by Harriette Hamilton

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

MUSICAL SHARING

One Light, One Sun

Words and music by Raffi

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17:1–9 **The Transfiguration**

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

There he was transfigured before them.

His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, **“Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”**

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, **“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”**

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. **“Get up,”** he said. **“Don’t be afraid.”** When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, **until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.**”

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Sacred Encounters

with special guest Akilah Newton founder of Overture with the Arts and ANP

OFFERING

OFFERATORY HYMN: More Voices #187

Reamo Leboga/ We Give Our Thanks

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Call us out of our complacency, generous God.

Open our ears to your voice,

our eyes to your brilliance,

and our hands and hearts

to share the blessings

that you have made possible for us.

We dedicate these gifts and our lives to your service.

Send us out to follow the Christ,

the one with whom you are well pleased,

and in whose name we make our prayer. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

Voice 1: In a world that is closed in, where we focus on only our own, seeing our own needs,

Voice 2: we pray for a world that is open, looking outwards, seeing beyond ourselves. May this be a holy transformation.

Voice 1: In a world where the few hold so much power, where food and opportunity is so unfairly divided,

Voice 2: we pray for a world that shares, recognizing each other's needs, and sharing each problem together. May this be a holy transformation.

Voice 1: In a world where conflict is the chosen way, and might feeds every prejudice,

Voice 2: we pray for a world that lives in peace, where differences are celebrated, and variety brings wholeness. May this be a holy transformation.

Voice 1: In a world whose value is financial, and global warming the imagining of fools,

Voice 2: we pray for a world that values what it has, and values its diversity and beauty, as a blessing from you. May this be a holy transformation.

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

HYMN: MORE VOICES #646

We are Marching / Siyahamba

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

In every journey, may we encounter the Christ.

On every mountaintop, may we encounter glory.


In every story, may we hear a word of grace.

And in every moment, may we encounter the transforming power of God.

MUSICAL SENDING:

One Love

Words and music by Bob Marley, arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

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.

22-Feb-23	Ash Wednesday Voices in the Wilderness	Time and location TBD
26-Feb-23	Lent 1	Fieldfare
05-Mar-23	Lent 2	Maple
12-Mar-23	Lent 3 Merging Waters annual meeting Bring your lunch!	Fieldfare
19-Mar-23	Lent 4 Celebration of covenant between Lisa Byer-de Wever and Merging Waters United Church 2 pm with reception to follow Note: No morning service	Maple