



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday Morning Worship

WITH THIRST FOR NEW LIFE -March 12, 2023

Lent III

WELCOME / BIENVENUE

Please join in the responses in **bold text**.

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.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY –

We would like to begin by acknowledging that this Merging Waters Gathering Place is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples.

We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal West Island community and beyond.

MUSICAL CENTERING

I Offer You Peace

Words of Mahatma Gandhi, music by Karl Jenkins, adapted by M. Woytiuk

CANDLE LIGHTING– Light a candle at home if you wish.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS:

Come into the wildness of possibility where strangers meet,
and everything changes in one conversation.

Come away from all that you thought you knew and find your voice.

**We have so much to say,
so much has gone unsaid.**

Come into the wildness and find others that are eager and ready to speak with
you and hear your truth.

We come to tell the truth.

OPENING PRAYER

In the driest desert, O God, you provided a rock that held a fountain for those
who thirst.

Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love.

In a place of quarrelling, you provide an answer that holds life for those who
hope.

Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love.

In a place of wonder, you provided living water, for those who met there.

Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our prayers often falter when we think we need to get it all right with
every word in its proper place,
every sentiment correctly stated.

Yet we know life is not like that.

Our feelings wander,

our thoughts scatter,

our motivations are mixed.

Save us from a politeness of faith that often shrinks back from the messy soul of what it means to be human.

From these messy places, we find life-giving desires longing to be felt and given voice.

Save us, too, from a sterility of faith that, for the sake of precision, remains closed to wonderment, the facing of hard questions, and possibilities of new adventures.

In the deep and hospitable silence,
enlarge our trust and free our hearts to live the generous ways of your love
(silence)

Words of affirmation

God's voice carries over the waters of creation, reaching out to you and assuring you that you are loved into life's fullness over and over again.

You will drink of the living waters and never be thirsty again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: MORE VOICES # 65

When We Are Tested

YOUNG AT HEART

Come and See! A story based on John 4:5–42

HYMN VOICES UNITED # 113

To The Desert Jesus Came

SCRIPTURES

John 4:5–42 NIV

5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a])

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

17 “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

33 Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans Believe

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

APPLICATION FOR TODAY: -With a Thirst for New Life

HYMN MORE VOICES #109:

My Soul is Thirsting For You

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

There are parched places and dry throats.

We believe that there is also water that springs from hard places and living water that quenches every thirst.

There are wild places and so much that is unknown.

We believe that there is also reason to burst into song and make a joyful noise because we have been to the depths but also know the heights that God can reach.

There are hardened hearts and impossible situations.

We believe that there is healing and reconciliation for everyone.

God promises peace and invites us to share this good news.

And the people say... **AMEN**

OFFERTORY HYMN: MV#187

We Give Our Thanks/Reamo Leboga

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As One closer than our breathing,
and as One knowing of our needs before we ask,
bless the gifts we bring today, O God.

Through us, use them in the love and service of others.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

Gracious God, we know that we have something to say and that there is good news to share.

We know that you have promised peace everlasting, and we can lift our voices to proclaim such possibility.

But, we are also full of doubt that our voices are strong enough or loud enough.

We quarrel with God, like Moses, that no one will listen.

There must be someone else that will speak.

There isn't always an Aaron to be your voice.

Sometimes, we know we must use our voices.

It has to be us that speak up.

We must find the courage, like the woman at the well,
to break through our insecurities and the expected boundaries to give voice to
what matters most.

Gracious God, we will never feel quite ready.

We will always stumble over the words and question how we use words to
bring about the change you imagine.

As we find the courage to speak,
we turn to you, Gracious God,
to listen for what most needs to be said.

We are listening

IE:SOS ROTERENNAIENTAHTSHERISON (Mohawk) -THE LORD'S PRAYER-

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power

and the glory are yours,

Takwaién: 'a ne karonhià:ke tehsi:t
eron

Aiesahsén:naien, aiesawenniiosthake

Aiesawennarahkhwake nonhwentsà:ke
Tsi-ni:ioht

ne karonhià:ke tiesawennararahkwa.

Tak wa:nont ne ken'wén:te

iationhnhéhkwen nia'tewenhnisera:ke

Sasa'nikonhrhen nionkwarihwanéren

Tsi ni:ioht ni: l tsonkwa 'nikonhrhens

Othé:nen ionkhi 'nikonhraksà:ton non:kwe

Tohsa aionkwa'shén:ni ne karihwanéren

Akwé:kon é:ren sha:wit ne iotaksen

Etho naia:wen!

now and for ever. Amen

SONG:

A Voice is Heard

Trisha Watts and Monica O'Brien

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING –

God knows your story and is listening for your voice.

Go out into the world in peace, to share the living water that God gives to us so freely,


and in so doing, to restore others to hope and life.

Amen.

MUSICAL SENDING

Paul And Peter Walked

Claire Lynch

Thank you for joining in worship today 

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada

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UPCOMING SERVICES

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
26-Mar-23	Lent 5	Fieldfare
2-Apr-23	Palm/Passion Sunday	Maple
6-Apr-23	Maundy Thursday	TBD
7-Apr-23	Good Friday	TBD
9-Apr-23	Easter Sunday	Fieldfare