



## Merging Waters United Church

### Sunday Morning Worship

### Out of the Depths

March 26, 2023

## 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

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator, who is both in creation and beyond it. All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related. All creation is good.\*

**We sing of the Creator, who made humans to live and move and have their being in God. In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God. We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.**

We acknowledge that our sacred space is found on the Indigenous territories of the Kanienkeha:ka Peoples and more recently other nations such as the

Huron, Wendat and Anishinaabe Peoples. With thankfulness and respect for their stewardship of creation, we seek to live into right relations with all.

*\*from a Song of Faith, United Church of Canada 2006, Ruthanne McLagan, Calvary U.C. London Ont.*

## MUSICAL CENTERING

Inscription of hope

*music by Z. Randall Stroope, words from inscription on cellar wall, Cologne, Germany*

*WW II*

## SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Come out of the depths of the wilderness of all that has been lost.

Push away the stone and wonder what glory could be.

**We believe that there is more than this sorrow.**

Come out into the morning light and find others waiting and hoping for love to mend hearts again.

**Our souls come together to watch and wait.**

Come, let us worship.

## OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we gather in love of Jesus the Christ and open ourselves to your Spirit.

**We open ourselves to your life in the midst of death.**

We open ourselves to your hope in the midst of despair.

**In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, we open ourselves to a new way of seeing things,**

**a new way of understanding things in your love.**

Stir us in our depths and call us out beyond every resistance. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

New life confronts us, O God.

We notice signs of spring and the profusion of summer growth, the abundance of autumn and the tenacity of life in winter.

We praise you for a world so full of beauty.

Your creative love and energy surround us,

renewing and regenerating a planet that continues to evolve.

Yet we are also confronted by death:

accidents and disease separate us from loved ones,  
forest life and farmland are destroyed by industry and development;  
cultures and languages disappear, and people lose their sense of identity.  
We wrestle with unanswered questions and feelings of despair, and we're not  
always sure how to find our way through this wilderness. Too often, we feel  
buried by what we will never understand.

### **WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

God does not abandon us to death and despair.  
Whatever has happened, whatever our fears for the future,  
God's compassion and steadfast love surround us.  
We are forgiven. We are loved, and God invites us again to live fully.

**HYMN VOICES UNITED #494:**                      Those Hearts That We Have Treasured

### **SCRIPTURE**

**Psalm 130**

Out of our weary depths  
we cry to you, O God  
Hear us, we pray

Our souls wait for you  
more than those who watch for the morning  
more than those who watch for the morning

Everlasting is your wondrous love  
and it is our great hope  
that you will revive us once again

**John 11:1–45 - The Death of Lazarus**

**HYMN- MORE VOICES #90**

Don't Be Afraid

**APPLICATION FOR TODAY: Out of the Depths**

**HYMN- VOICES UNITED #575**

I'm Gonna Live So

**WORDS OF AFFIRMATION**

We affirm our faith together.

We believe in the steadfast love of God,  
whose willingness to hear is greater than our despair;  
whose power to forgive is greater than our sin;  
we trust in this God to save us.

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who wept in anger and grief;  
who faced life with hope and death with courage;  
at his command, the bonds of death are untied/unloosed/broken;  
in him, we find life and resurrection.

We believe in the Spirit of God,  
who breathes new life into dead bones;  
who dwells in us and brings us hope;  
who forms us into the people of God,  
always alive to new possibilities;  
this is the Spirit who dwells in us.

## OFFERING

HYMN MORE VOICES # 187

We Give Our Thanks/Reamo Leboga

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of life, you invite us to share life. We offer these gifts of [food and] money and pray that they may bring life and hope to those who receive them. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY/PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

Response "God in your mercy, hear our prayer,"

## THE PRAYER OF JESUS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father and Mother,

which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN: MORE VOICES # 144**


Like a Healing Stream

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

We cried to God from the depths, and God heard our voice.  
We came with our burdens, bound by our fears.  
We leave this place with hope released to serve a living God.  
Go in the strength of God who shows steadfast love,  
in the courage of Christ who shares our humanity,  
and in the companionship of the Spirit who gives life.

**MUSICAL SENDING**

Jesus is The Rock And He Rolls My Blues Away

Thank you for joining in worship today 

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**MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH**

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada

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

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

02-Apr-23	Palm/Passion Sunday <b>Among Palms and Betrayals</b>	Maple
06-Apr-23	Maundy Thursday <b>Wilderness Elements</b> Shared evening meal, more details to come	Maple
07-Apr-23	Good Friday <b>At the Crossroads</b> 10:30 am	Cedar Park
09-Apr-23	Easter sunrise ecumenical service 7:00 am	Église St-Joachim lakeshore Pointe-Claire
09-Apr-23	Easter Sunday <b>Joy Comes Alive</b> Sacrament of communion with Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Fieldfare