



**Merging Waters United Church,  
Third Sunday of Easter “EYES OF THE HEART”**

**April 23, 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**

**EARTH DAY MESSAGE**

by Susan Cruickshank

**ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY –**

**MUSICAL CENTERING:**

Here Comes the Sun

*Music by George Harrison, arrangement by Michael Woytiuk*

**THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE** – Light a candle at home if you wish.

## **SPIRITUAL FOCUS**

Friends of God,

we come into the presence of God to be stilled in heart

**We come to be inspired through imagination**

**With believing hands, we reach out to receive**

**With eyes opened**

**to new perspectives**

**we will learn how to live in**

**the free and spirited ways of Christ**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

God of broad earth and deep sky,

of wholesome bread and delicious wine,

you delight us with your nearness.

You astonish us through the ordinary ways,

you make yourself known.

May delight enrich our worship,

so that gratitude carries us onto roads of grace, goodness, and compassion.

**HYMN: Voices United #395, Come In and Sit Down**

## **SCRIPTURE:**

**Luke 24: 13 – 35/ New International Version - On the Road to Emmaus**

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had

happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> **but they were kept from recognizing him.**

<sup>17</sup> **He asked them,** “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> **One of them, named Cleopas, asked him,** “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

<sup>19</sup> **“What things?” he asked.**

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> **The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;** <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> **In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning** <sup>23</sup> **but didn’t find his body.** They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.**

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, **“Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.”** So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> **Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.** <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

<sup>33</sup> **They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.** There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

**HYMN: Voices United #289, It Only Takes a Spark**

**APPLICATION FOR TODAY:**

“Eyes Of The Heart”

**MUSICAL OFFERING:**

Arabesque #2 by Claude Debussy

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Giver of life,

in the same way, bread is broken and shared for the benefit of all,

so might our offerings of money, time, and giftedness be a breaking open of abundant love to the world. Amen.

**HYMN:**            They Know We Are Christians by Our Love by P.S. Scholtes

## **PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN**

Bread for all, bread in all, we pray, O God:

**when we are orphaned, hungry, oppressed.** (silence)

Faith for all, faith in all, we pray, O God:

**to recognize faith in other ways, other texts,  
and other worshipping communities.** (silence)

Grace for all, grace in all, we pray, O God:

**when we are estranged, alienated, scorned.** (silence)

Wisdom for all, wisdom in all, we pray, O God:

**when we are disabled, neglected, impoverished.** (silence)

Spirit for all, Spirit in all, we pray, O God:

**for Mother Earth, our children,**

**and a shared, common future. AMEN**

## **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 # 196, We Will Take What You Offer

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

May you go into the world with your hearts burning.

May you find the slow wonder of God greet your heart in new and surprising ways.

May your eyes be open enough to love deeply from a mutual heart, for this is how God loves you.

Go into the world with love and joy, for God's peace always goes with us. Amen

**MUSICAL SENDING:** Go Now In Peace, by Nancy and Don Besig

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

Beaurepaire building @ 25 Fieldfare, Beaconsfield

Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music

Jo-Anne Windover, Office Administrator

Lisa Byer-de Wever, Minister

mergingwaters@bellnet.ca

(514) 457-5819

(514) 695-5448

[www.mergingwaters.ca](http://www.mergingwaters.ca)

## UPCOMING SERVICES:

30-Apr-23	Easter 4 <b>Sensing Awe</b>	Maple	<b>Acts 2:42–47</b> Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19–25 John 10:1–10
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07-May-23	Easter 5 <b>Emboldened to Proclaim</b>	Fieldfare	<b>Acts 7:55–60</b> Psalm 31:1–5, 15–161 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14
14-May-23	Easter 6 <b>To See Is to Love</b>	Maple	Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–201 Peter 3:13–22 <b>John 14:15–21</b>
21-May-23	Easter 7 <b>Sensory Glory</b>	Fieldfare	Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–351 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11 <b>John 17:1–11</b>

Please consult the website for online worship links:

[www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online](http://www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online) Download the Zoom App at <https://zoom.us/download>