



**Merging Waters United Church**  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**National Indigenous Day of Prayer**

Sunday, June 18, 2023

**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**

One: Creator, we come together today as diverse, united peoples to give thanks to you, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

**All: We come to listen, to learn, to sing and pray, to consider our place in the order of things you have created and are creating.**

One: It is right and good to give thanks for the land on which we stand, for this is wisdom we learn from Indigenous peoples of this land—that we are one with the earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.

**All: Such wisdom, our interdependence with all life, is something too easy to forget in our busy lives! It is a gift and a challenge to us to remember.**

One: And so we take time to acknowledge the lands on which we now live.

**All: Many of us have come from other places, arriving from distant shores, our families arriving years ago or some of us more recently. When settlers came, they were met by others who were already here, already knew these lands, already lived rich and full lives based on ancient and proud cultures.**

One: Let us take time to name the peoples of this land now.

**Kanienkeha:ka (GAN-EE-EN-GAY-HA-GA)**

**Anishinaabe (AW-NISH-NAH-BAY)**

**Huron-Wendat**

O God, as we acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their continued claims to the land, help us to become neighbours that we might live together in better ways.

**All: For we are all kin in Christ, “All My Relations / Akwe Nia’Tetewá:neren,” with each other and this earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.**

## MUSICAL CENTERING

Acadian Driftwood, by Robertson

## THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

## SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Creator, Great Spirit, we thank you for gathering us today to celebrate and honour the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. We recognize the sacredness of the drum, the powerful symbol of unity, healing, and connection to the earth. As we worship, guide us to listen deeply, embrace compassion, and seek understanding. May our journey together strengthen the bonds of unity and foster the spirit of reconciliation.

On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we gather in solidarity with the First Peoples of this land.

**We celebrate their wisdom, culture, and spirituality.**

We honour the sacred drum, the heartbeat of Mother Earth, echoing the voice of our ancestors.

**May our hearts beat in harmony with the rhythm of Creation.**

Come, let us join in worship, embracing the beauty of Indigenous heritage and strength.

**With open hearts, we seek to journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation.**

**Amen**

**SONG More Voices 21** – Open our Heart, Open our Minds/Ouvre nos Coeurs, Ouvre nos Pensées

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

Great Spirit, Creator of all, as we come before you in humility and reverence, we give thanks for your loving presence.

**You have brought us together on this Indigenous Day of Prayer, uniting us in our shared journey of healing, reconciliation, and celebration.**

As we approach you, O God, we seek to honour the wisdom, spirituality, and strength of the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

**We acknowledge the power of the Sacred Drum, its rhythm echoing the heartbeat of Mother Earth and connecting us to the voices of our ancestors.**

Open our hearts, Great Spirit, to receive your guidance and grace.

**Help us to embrace the beauty of diversity, to listen with respect and compassion, and to learn from the teachings of Indigenous peoples.**

In this sacred time of worship, may we be filled with your Spirit, that we might journey together on the path of understanding and love. In your holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

## HYMN VOICES UNITED 308

Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

## SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:14–22

## APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Sacred Drum & stories

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Mourning into Dancing

## RECONCILIATION The Seven Grandfather Teachings (Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, Truth)

## SONG

Land of the Silver Birch arranged by Pierre Gallant

## OFFERING

Beloved community, as we gather on this Indigenous Day of Prayer, let us reflect on the abundant blessings and gifts the Creator has generously bestowed upon us. We are invited to share these blessings with others.

The act of giving is not only about financial resources but also about sharing our time, talents, and heart. In this spirit of generosity, let us open ourselves to the call of the Great Spirit to support the work of reconciliation.

As we prepare to give, may we remember the power of the Sacred Drum, uniting us with the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the voices of our ancestors. Through our offerings, may we contribute to building a world where love, justice, and compassion flourish.

Let us give with joyful and grateful hearts.

**MUSICAL OFFERING** The Dead Heart (R. Hirst, J. Moginie, P. Garrett, M. Rotsey, P. Gifford)

## **DOXOLOGY Voices United 541**

Ron wa sen naiens ne Nio (ROW WA SA NIGH-ENS NAY NIO)

ron wa sen naiens ne non kwe, (ROW WA SA NIGH-ENS NAY NOON GWAY)

ron wa sen naiens neh ne ken (ROW WA SA NIGH-ENS NAY KNEE GAN)

ron wa sen naiens ro ni ha. (ROW WA SA NIGH-ENS ROW KNEE HA)

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious Creator, source of all blessings and gifts, we come before you with gratitude for the abundance you have bestowed upon us. As we gather on this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we dedicate our lives, our gifts, and our resources to the ongoing work of healing, reconciliation, and unity.

We acknowledge, O God, the sacredness of the drum, symbolizing our interconnectedness with the Earth and one another. In this spirit of unity, we offer our time, talents, and treasures to support and uplift Indigenous communities, to celebrate their rich heritage, and to foster understanding and mutual respect among all peoples.

As we dedicate these offerings, Great Spirit, we also dedicate our hearts and minds to the journey of reconciliation. Empower us to be instruments of your peace, your love, and your justice, as we work together to build a more inclusive, equitable, and compassionate world.

In your holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

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

*Response:* **All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer**

### **AN INDIGENOUS LORD'S PRAYER**

**Great Spirit, our Creator, who is in all places,**

**Sacred is your name.**

**May your wisdom guide us,**

**Your will be done in our lives, as it is throughout Creation.**

Provide for us today the nourishment we need,  
And forgive us our wrongs, as we forgive those who have wronged us.  
Lead us on the path of understanding and respect,  
And protect us from ignorance and harm.  
For you are the source of all power, beauty, and love,  
From generation to generation, forever and always. Amen.


**SONG Voices United # 701** -What Does the Lord Require of You?

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

May the Creator, the Great Spirit, fill your hearts with love, your minds with wisdom, and your spirits with courage. As you leave this sacred space, carry the heartbeat of the Sacred Drum within you. May you be inspired to unite, celebrate Indigenous cultures' richness, and seek healing and reconciliation for all. **Amen.**

## MUSICAL SENDING

O Siem by Susan Aglukark

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.

June 25<sup>th</sup>                      **Annual Outdoor Ecumenical Worship Service**    **10am @ Fritz Farm**



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE ¶

Worship services are online and in-person at 10:30am. ¶

Link to connect will be available weekly and updated at the WIRUC (West Island Riverside United Churches) website: <https://www.westislandriversideunited.org/> ¶

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JULY-2¶	CEDAR PARK UNITED ¶ 204 Ave. Lakeview, Pointe-Claire¶	¶
JULY-9¶	STE. GENNEVIEVE UNITED CHURCH ¶ 4697 Boul. Saint-Jean, Dollard-des-Ormeaux¶	¶
JULY-16¶	BEACONSFIELD UNITED CHURCH ¶ 202 Rte. Woodside, Beaconsfield¶	¶
JULY-23¶	RIVERSIDE UNITED CHURCH ¶ 200 Chem. De la Grande Cote, Rosemère¶	¶
JULY-30¶	VALOIS UNITED CHURCH ¶ 70 Belmont, Pointe-Claire¶	¶
AUGUST-6¶	ROXBORO UNITED CHURCH ¶ 116 Rue Cartier, Roxboro¶	¶
AUGUST-13¶	LAKESHORE TRINITY UNITED CHURCH ¶ 98 Ave. Aurora, Pointe-Claire¶	¶
AUGUST-20¶	BEACONSFIELD UNITED CHURCH ¶ 202 Rte. Woodside, Beaconsfield¶	¶
AUGUST-27¶	SUMMERLEA UNITED CHURCH ¶ 225 50e Avenue, Lachine¶	¶
SEPTEMBER-3¶	MERGINGWATERS UNITED CHURCH ¶ 24 Maple, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue¶	¶
September-18¶	BEAUREPAIRE UNITED CHURCH ¶ Led by Marie-Silvenie-Chery¶	¶
September-25¶	UNION UNITED CHURCH ¶ Led by Adedeji Akintayo¶	¶
October-2¶	BEAUREPAIRE UNITED CHURCH ¶ Led by Lisa-Byer-de-Wever¶	¶

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