



West Island & Riverside United Churches

Summer Worship

LOVE IN ACTION

14th Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, September 3, 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.

Deep Spirituality
We Approach God

MUSICAL CENTERING: Let Love Go First (Music and Lyrics by Michael Woytiuk.)

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

As we gather together, we acknowledge this sacred land. It has been a site of human activity for over 15,000 years. This land is the unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá or Mohawk Peoples. The territory was the subject of the Two-Row Wampum, Dish with One Spoon, and Silver Chain of Covenant between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, the meeting place of Tiotiake or Montreal, is still the home to many indigenous people from across turtle island and we're grateful to have the opportunity to gather in

community on this territory. We're also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

We honour and respect the culture and their stewardship of the land, and we repent of the harm that the church has caused to them and other Indigenous peoples. May we each continue to encourage ourselves to take some time today (and every day) to reflect on our relationship with this land and on what we each can do to be in right relationship with the Indigenous Peoples whose land we live on.

Adapted from The Gathering Pentecost 1 2023

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Come through the boundary of the night into the light of this new day.

Come to remember what is under your feet,

and be surprised by what is being planted.

Let us grow together in our praise and delight,

feeling the wind tickle our branches,

and the groundwater feeding our roots.

You and I, let us move in this gentle breeze to live and move

and have our being.

Let us find the beauty and wonder in being God's offspring

Together in love.

Season's of the Spirit Pentecost 2023

OPENING PRAYER

Grow with us, God, to understand what it means not only

for us to be your offspring but to share this identity with

the trees and rocks and creatures creeping, crawling, flying

and climbing through Forest's boundaries.

Your Love

Open us to find our first neighbours and teachers in Forest today.

Help us to look and listen, touch and hear
the goodness and wisdom you have planted.

Ground us in this wisdom so we can grow
more and more into your mystery.

Your Love

Amen.

(Remembering)

We remember the first garden when God planted Forest as
God's offspring.

We remember the gardens and the forests of our childhood,
the places we played in the past when we felt close to Earth
and to trees.

We remember and rejoice.

Your Love

**Thank you, God, for trees, for Forest filled with mystery
and wonder!**

Amen.

Seasons of the Spirit Pentecost 2023

SONG: More Voices #113 Jesus Saw Them Fishing

CONFESSION AND AFFIRMATION

Maker and giver of all,

forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives:

when we walk through this world

and fail to see the wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation;

when we walk through our lives

and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us;

All mighty God,

You need no temple as your dwelling place and need no human construction to live in and have your being.

Yet we let ourselves be distracted by our emotional attachment to our church buildings rather than focussing on living out the reality of your Kingdom of love and justice wherever we are.

Help us to focus on what is most important and precious to You. Love

God of all Peoples, Parent of all humanity,

In our eagerness to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, we have so often missed how people from all cultures and walks of life were already in relationship with you.

Forgive us and show us what connects us to You and to one another so we may build bridges and repair relationships.

Incarnate God, who came through Jesus Christ, the Servant king,

You showed us how to humbly serve one another and preach and teach with our lives.

Yet, as we seek to share a deeper understanding of your love, we often resort to complex insider language making us sound like pretentious babblers rather than servants of the Living God, inviting all into a caring community.

Help us to question anew the meaning of what we say about You and to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a child's heart, hopeful, compassionate and open to the unexpected.

In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Adapted from <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5006/worship-elements-may-14-2023>)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is the love that over and around us lies;
the grace that is totally unearned;
and the healing that makes the earth whole.
Give thanks to God; we are loved, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

Celebrate God's Presence 17K002

HYMN: More Voices #62 There is Room for All/Chacun a Sa Place

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN: More Voices # 142 O A Song Must Rise

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17: 16-28

APPLICATION FOR TODAY: Bold + Daring + Spiritual = LOVE

SONG: Love is the Greatest Part of It (Music by Michael Woytiuk)

Bold Discipleship We Respond to God

OFFERING

ANTHEM: Get Together (The Youngbloods)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of mystery, no longer unknown, you invite us to open conversations, discern connections, and seek always to develop relationships and communities of life and hope. We align our lives with your love for the whole world and join our longing with your desire for all generations to live, move, and be in you. Amen.

Season's of the Spirit Pentecost 2023

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

THE PRAYER OF JESUS / THE LORD'S PRAYER NOTRE PÈRE (Lambert)

HYMN: VU #356/NVU: Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God / Cherchons d'abord le royaume de Dieu

**Daring Justice
We Live the Gospel in the World**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

May the grace of God
deeper than our imagination
the strength of Christ
stronger than our need
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
richer than our togetherness
guide and sustain us today
and in all our tomorrows.

Go forth into the world, in love
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

Celebrate God's Presence 17K002

MUSICAL SENDING: Let Your Love Flow (Bellamy Brothers)

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 at 10:30 a.m.

10-Sep-23	15th Sunday after Pentecost Land Sunday		Maple
17-Sep-23	16th Sunday after Pentecost Kairos Blanket Exercise	Service at 9am with worship and the Kairos Blanket Exercise with Elder Tom Dearhouse. Followed by a time of fellowship. Bring your lunch, refreshments will be served.	Maple
24-Sep-23	17th Sunday after Pentecost River Sunday		Maple
01-Oct	18th Sunday after Pentecost Worldwide Communion Cluster service		Riverside UC