



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday, September 10, 2023

LAND SUNDAY

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

We'd like to take this time to acknowledge that Merging Waters United Church is situated within the traditional and unceded territories of the Kanien'keha:ka (GAN-I-YAN-GAY-HA-GA), also known as the Mohawk, first nation. We honour and respect their culture and their stewardship of the land, and we repent of the harm that the church has caused to them and other Indigenous Peoples. We aim 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.

MUSICAL CENTERING

Our Land is But a Poem

Lyrics by James Rebanks, arrangement by M. Woytiuk

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

From many different lands we gather
on this land, in this place, at this time.

You are with us.

God of the earth, the land, the sky;
in difficult times,
on rocky ground,
when the landscape seems to have changed,

we gather to worship.

Find us, O God,
shaped by the dust
grounded in hope
and eager to grow.

You are with us.

Remembering

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Listen...

Land is inviting us in.

She asks us to join in her song
deep within the earth.

Land cries out from the ground.

There is grief in her song
but there is a rhythm of hope.

Listen...

We are not separate.

Our hearts beat together as one.

Where could we go from Spirit?

Nowhere. Nowhere.

God is under our feet.

God is over our heads.

God is here.

Listen.

OPENING HYMN MORE VOICES #174 Soil of God, You and I (Holy Ground)

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 139: 7 – 12

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and night wraps itself around me,"

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

"Holy Ground"

HYMN VOICES UNITED #307

Touch the Earth Lightly

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

I See the Love of God

Lyrics by David Ouchterlony, arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

DOXOLOGY VOICES UNITED # 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
(Mohawk)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY / PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

THE PRAYER OF JESUS / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother, Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy 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 thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN MORE VOICES #37

Each Blade of Grass

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Go from this place into the land beloved of God.

Tread lightly on the land so that your footprints may not harm.

Touch gently with your hands that healing may bring hope.


Tremble softly in anticipation of the Spirit's presence.

Transform each life with love in every time and place.

MUSICAL SENDING

God's Got the Whole World In God's Hands

Arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

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	Service at 9 am: worship and the Kairos Blanket Exercise with Elder Tom Dearhouse and the Outreach committee, followed by a time of fellowship. Bring your own lunch; light refreshments will be served.	Maple
24-Sep-23	17th Sunday after Pentecost River Sunday	Maple
01-Oct	18th Sunday after Pentecost Worldwide Communion Sunday	Riverside UC
08-Oct	Thanksgiving Sunday	Maple
15-Oct	Worship at 2:00 pm A special service of remembering and decommissioning	Fieldfare

