

Merging Waters United Church

Sunday, September 24, 2023

RIVER 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

MUSICAL CENTERING:

Wood River

Music and Lyrics by Connie Kaldor,
Arrangement by Willie Zwozdesky

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

See the clouds part on this new day and the colourful bow that reaches across the sky as a sign of welcome and promise.

Come

to remember all that is between us and God,

not just us.

Come to remember that that promise reaches

to Forest and Land.

It runs through Wilderness/Outback,

and gushes up from River,

where we might see that colourful reflection.

Let us quake with anticipation and wonder,

feeling the water tickle our toes

and call us into the fullness of life.

You and I, let us ride on the rapids of hope.

Let us find the beauty and wonder in being so connected to creation.

OPENING PRAYER

Flow with us, God, through the loud rushing rapids and among the deep silent pools. Acknowledge our many sources and outlets for sharing our gifts as we come together to find all that bubbles up in your wisdom. Move us into the current of your creative energy as we immerse ourselves in worship and praise with River as our guide. Amen.

Remembering

We remember the rivers God created in Eden and across our planet,

rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth and vital for all that lives.

We remember the streams of our past,

the pools and ponds where we played and the feeling of celebration as we splashed each other.

We remember and rejoice.

Thank you, God, for rivers and streams flowing with life's water.

Adapted from seasonofcreation.com

OPENING HYMN: Voices United #710 -Shall We Gather at the River?

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

River of Life Based on Revelation 22:1–7, 16–17

MEDITATION

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

River Sunday

HYMN:

Jardin sous la pluie by Claude Debussy

a tribute to life-giving water

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY: Voices United #541

Ron wa sen naiens ne Niio

ron wa sen naiens ne non kwe,

ron wa sen naiens neh ne ken

ron wa sen naiens ro ni ha.

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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN MORE VOICES #3 River


COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

MUSICAL SENDING •

There's a River in Judea

music by Jack Feldman words by Linda Marcus

arranged by John Leavitt

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.

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