

Merging Waters United Church

Sunday October 29, 2022

ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have lived and journeyed on this land, weaving their identity and their spirituality intimately with the land.

European colonization came about, in large part, because of the Doctrine of Discovery, a flawed understanding that ignored Indigenous presence on the land.

Affirming the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and, therefore, repudiating the wrong of such a doctrine, we begin our worship this morning by acknowledging the traditional territory of the Kaniienkeha:ka Peoples.

This is unceded territory.

**May we grow into living with respect on this land,
seeking reconciliation through peace and friendship,
while honouring Indigenous ancestors who cherished this land.**

**We pray for the Holy Spirit to breathe healing, justice, hope,
and compassion into all our relations
and set us free from the evils of colonization.**

Emily Perry, Kincardine U.C., Kincardine, Ont.

MUSICAL CENTERING

For All The Saints/Sine Nomine

Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arrangement M. Woytiuk

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

1: Today we celebrate All Saints' Day.

2: This is a United Church. We don't believe in saints!

The only saints we really accept are the ones who wrote the gospels: Saint Matthew, Saint Mark, Saint Luke, and Saint John.

1: Wait one moment. When the apostle Paul wrote to the congregations of new Christians, he often referred to them as saints. For instance, Paul said, "To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7).

2: That was a long time ago. What does Paul calling people "saints" have to do with us? **Times were different back then. Maybe the first Christians were saintly people.**

1: Those Romans that Paul wrote to were not perfect. They were just ordinary people who were learning to follow the Way of Jesus. Sometimes they stumbled, and Paul wrote to encourage them to do better.

2: Oh, now I understand. A saint is someone who allows God's presence to transform their life as they learn to follow the ways of Jesus.

We know people who fit that description, and we want to follow their examples.

1: Consider this congregation. We are saints of today.

Yes! We are modern-day saints, and we celebrate the saints of our past.

2: Together let us worship God, who through the Holy Spirit invites us into a life of sainthood.

Phyllis Fleming, Grace U.C., Thornbury, Ont.

OPENING PRAYER

Our journey with the people of Israel now brings us to the edge of grief.

Nothing is as it was. The story has changed.

We welcome God's grace.

We come to remember what it means to be alive.

We invite Christ's love.

We come together to imagine and dream beyond the pain.

Into the unknown, we lean on each other to share our stories.

We welcome the Spirit's comfort.

Let us find ourselves in God's story today.

Let our stories come alive with God's love.

Come, dwell with us, O God.

Mountains may crumble.

Time might pass, and it will feel like everything has changed,
but you will be in our breath. You will be with us.

You will be Spirit, Comforter, Encourager and Guide,

reminding us to breathe in and breathe out.

Come and breathe with us now.

O God, fill us with your presence in each breath.

HYMN Voices United 703

In The Bulb There Is A Flower

YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 34:1 – 12 NRSVUE

Moses Dies and Is Buried in the Land of Moab

34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the God showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, 2 all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, 3 the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. 4 God said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” 5 Then Moses, the servant of God, died there in the land of Moab, at GOD’S command. 6 He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. 7 Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. 8 The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. 9 Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as God had commanded Moses. 10 Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom God knew face to face. 11 He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that God sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, 12 and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

God’s Story, Our Stories

SONG Voices United #154

Deep In Our Hearts

OUR SAINTS GO MARCHING ON (Remembering Our Loved Ones)

The Girl With Flaxen Hair By Claude Debussy

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

You Are The Sunshine Of My Life

Words and music Stevie Wonder, arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer to you the work of our hands, the love of our hearts, the fruits of our labour, trusting that they will be used for your service and to your glory. **Amen.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE


SONG Voices United 646 We Are Marching in The Light of God (Siyahambe)

COMMISSIONING

We are people of the Way.
We are people on a journey to find new directions, discover new stories, to explore new ways of love.
We give thanks for the way that is stretched before us and all the challenges, fears, and possibilities it brings.
We give thanks for the way that lies behind us; it has faithfully led us this far.
We give thanks for the new ways that will emerge:
May we continue to follow your leading with hopeful and daring hearts.

MUSICAL SENDING

When The Saints Go Marching In

Thank you for joining in worship today 

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada

24 Maple, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue QC H9X2E6

Lisa Byer-de-Wever, Pastor

Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music


Jo-Anne Windover, Office Administrator
office@mergingwaters.ca

(514) 457-5819

(514) 695-5448

www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

Following our memorable and meaningful decommissioning at our Fieldfare location, please note that in future all services will be held at 24 Maple. 

05 – November	Learning Leaders
12 - November	“Wholehearted” and Remembrance Sunday