



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday November 5, 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.

GATHERING HYMN MORE VOICES # 14 where Two or Three Are Gathered

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 Kanienkeha: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.

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

wish!

Light a candle at home if you

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

From the first days of all creation, your presence has been in every action.

**May we be open to all things through you and recognize
you in all our achievements.**

In our steps together as a community and the steps we take
where we feel alone,

**may we be open to all things through you and remember
you in times of need.**

Throughout life, we are encouraged to look forward and not
dwell on past actions: great or small.

**May we be open to all things through you and reveal you,
O God, in all we do. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

God, we carry your teaching in our hearts and our minds.

We carry your teaching in our hands and feet in service.

We carry your teaching on our lips.

Carry us now into the joy of new learning.

Carry us with your love. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We carry with us Jesus' teaching. We also carry heavy burdens tied up and laid upon and within us. We've tied up burdens like being someone we are not, or wanting something we don't have, or doing things that hurt others or ourselves. Tie a knot in your cord as a sign of one of those burdens you wish to place before God.

Silent prayer.

When we walk alone with our burdens, Jesus' good news reminds us to reach out and share the command to love and serve. Exchange your knotted cord with a neighbour. Pray quietly now for your neighbour's burden. Ask God for new hope in the journey.

Silent prayer.

Words of affirmation

Friends in Christ, you never journey alone.

God works joyfully to lift the burdens and renew us

with love.

God forgives and calls each of us into greater compassion

for ourselves and our neighbour.

Friends, live in the spirit of love.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN:

Jesus Put This Song Into Our Hearts

Words and music by Graham Kendrick

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:1-12 NRSV Jesus Denounces Scribes and Pharisees

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’s seat; ³ therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,^[a] and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷ and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.^[b] ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Learning Leaders

HYMN MORE VOICES # 12

Come touch our hearts

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy Teacher, give us the wisdom to use these gifts to practice what we hear and teach. Give us the compassion to lift burdens that oppress and replace them with an invitation to loving service in your name.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response: ‘Lord hear My Prayer’

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

CLOSING HYMN MORE VOICES # 13

Let The Power Fall On Me

BLESSING & COMMISSIONING

In the Spirit of the Christ, we are sent out as partners in service with others in our community and the world.

We are sent out to untie burdens and put on our response to Jesus’ teaching.


We are sent out to lift off the yoke of oppression and sadness
and put on the yoke of love.

Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL SENDING

People Have the Power

Words and music by Fred and Patti Smith

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

Lisa Byer-de-Wever, Pastor

Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music

Jo-Anne Windover, Office Administrator

mergingwaters@bellnet.ca

(514) 457-5819

www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

12 - Nov	"Wholehearted" and Remembrance Sunday
----------	---------------------------------------