



Merging Waters United Church

Attitude of Abundance and

Baptism

Sunday, November 19, 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.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Response: **This is the traditional land of the Kaniienkeha:Ka Peoples, and we are deeply grateful to be here and to ground ourselves in the land which has been a place where people have lived for thousands of years.**

Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane, Alta.

THE LIGHT AT OUR CORE

Light a candle at home if you wish!

CENTERING HYMN MORE VOICES #8

And on This Path

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Running on empty. Drained. Overscheduled and over-worked.
Listless. Hopeless. Just plain tired.

When we can't see another way,

We come to worship.

We come to be renewed and restored, to feel our attitude shift.

Together, we will find our way into joy.

We will be filled with God's love and grace.

OPENING PRAYER

We joyfully receive your abundant gifts, God.

We pause to feel the power of life within us,
the potential for compassion around us,
and your steady ground of hope beneath us.

Amen.

OPENING SONG

New World in The Morning

Music By Roger Whittaker, arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents NIV

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ 23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Scripture - Matthew 3:16-17 NRSVUE

16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Prayer

As a mother comforts her child, **so, you comfort us, O God;** as a father has compassion for his children, **so the Lord is compassionate and merciful. Amen.**

Statement of Purpose

Hear this record of Jesus’ radical concern for welcoming children: People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might bless them:

The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: **“Don’t push these children away. Don’t ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom. Mark this: Unless you accept God’s kingdom in**

the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in." Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them. (Mark 10:13-16, *The Message*)

Seeds for Thought

MUSICAL OFFERING MV # 161 I Have Called You By Your Name

Presentation of Candidate

Affirmation of Faith: New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Promises of Parents

Participation of Godparents

Congregational Promise

As Merging Waters United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil? **WE WILL**

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Pouring of the Water

The Act of Baptism/Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Declaration & Congregational Welcome & Blessing

Let us welcome this new life among us.

Little child, welcome to this world, this amazing and scary world. Welcome to light and dark, hot and cold, good and evil. Welcome to love and hate, truth and lies, good times and bad. Welcome to the long human pilgrimage from birth to death. Anything can happen here; everything is possible. Some things must be chosen; others left behind. Welcome to the real world and this circle of friends. Here we turn to God for help in making the choices that lead to life.

Robert Fulghum, From Beginning to End - The Rituals of Our Lives

Presenting the Baptismal Candle

Baptismal Blessing Song

A Child is Born

Music by Thad Jones, arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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


HYMN VOICES UNITED # 506

Take My Life and Let It Be

BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING

SENDING SONG

On The Day You Were Born
Music by Red Grammer

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.