



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Take a Page from Mary's Journal, Advent III: "Sharing the Burden"

Intergenerational Christmas Drama

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 acknowledge that we at Merging Waters live, work, worship, and play on the unceded and unsundered lands of the Kaniienkha:ka Peoples.

As we journey towards the birth of Jesus once again, we remember everything this birth means for our whole world and all people: hope, peace, joy, and love. May we live our lives moving gently in creation, listening, learning, and striving to be people of reconciliation.

Jessica Knoyle, Ottawa, Ont.

CENTERING SONG MORE VOICES #134

There Was a Child in Galilee

GATHERING PRAYER

Give thanks to God, for God is good!

God's JOY endures forever!

May the lost, the found, the weary, and the joyful hear...

God's love endures forever.

May the thirsty, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the free hear...

God's JOY endures forever!

As we gather and grow, give and receive...

We sing of God's unfailing JOY!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Advent III: Joy

Arise and celebrate, good news of deep joy is here!

All: The warm glow of the Divine lightens our hearts.

Here we are together. We are not alone. We gather on this third Sunday in Advent with gratitude and overflowing generosity, blessed multiple times by our give-away God. We are witnesses to joy.

All: The Joy of Christ is good news, unexpected and surprising in its overflowing.

God-who-lights-up-life give us joyful, generous, and courageous hearts. As we lean on your love may your joy well up in us so that our joy may overflow and flourish, witnessing to a life of constant gratitude, full of grace, cathartic hilarity, and goodness.

ADVENT HYMN VU#6

A Candle Is Burning v.3

MARY'S JOURNAL:

“Sharing The Burden”

HYMN Voices United # 64

O Little Town of Bethlehem

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS DRAMA

SONG

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

OFFERING & WHITE GIFT

OFFERING HYMN More Voices # 30

It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All things come from you, Creating God, and by your grace we offer our gifts in return. Bless us and what we do here, that we and all your people might experience the renewal of life you reveal in Christ Jesus. Open our hearts and minds to receive your continual gift of transformation this day, and always. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Hope, you hear our silent prayers and urgent cries.
Hear us now as we pray for your world and its people.
God of hope, hear our prayer.

God of Peace, on this day we pray
for the people of Bethlehem, of Israel, and of Palestine;
for the Ukraine, Somalia and Syria;
for refugees who have nowhere to lay their heads;
for those who find themselves in strange lands.
God of the morning star, protect all people. Guide us in the ways of mercy and justice.

We pray for peace for all those needing your care for mind body and soul.
We pray for.....

God of Joy, on this day we pray
for those who will spend this day alone;
for those whose tables will have an empty place this year;
for those in care homes and hospitals;
and for our loved ones who live again in your eternal joy.
God of heaven and earth, of anticipation and promise, be with us and heal us.

God of Love, open our hearts, that we might receive you and hear your voice.
Open us to the possibility of true change, in us and in others.
Remind us of your promise, made again to every generation, of your enduring love.
May things on earth be as they are in heaven.

We pray these things in the name of the One who comes, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Voices United 916B

CLOSING HYMN VOICES UNITED # 82

A Light Is Gleaming


BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING

God comes to us as stranger, messenger, child, and parent.
 Let us seek this God of JOY in all whom we meet.
 May God who is Giver, Gift, and Grace-Among-Us,
 be with you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING/SONG

Light the Candles All Around the World

Music and lyrics by Teresa Jennings, 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.

<p>December 10 Third Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Take a Page from Mary's Journal Advent 3: Sharing the Burden</p> <p>All Ages and Generations Celebrate the Story</p>
<p>December 17 Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Take a Page from Mary's Journal Advent 4: Kindness of Strangers</p>
<p>December 24 No morning service.</p> <p>Christmas Eve service 7 pm</p>	<p>Take a Page from Mary's journal Christmas Eve: Unconditional Love</p> <p>An evening of story, song, and candle lighting</p>