

Merging Waters United Church

Sunday, December 24, 2023 –

Take a Page from Mary's Journal, Christmas Eve: "The Birth of Jesus"

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 Kaniienkeha: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 HYMN VOICES UNITED # 60 O Come, All Ye Faithful V.1-3

GATHERING PRAYER

Tonight is an exciting night, because...

Tonight Jesus is born in Bethlehem!

The ancient and the distant are brought near to us now in Ste Anne-de Bellevue, for...

Tonight Jesus is born in Bethlehem!

Shepherd and angels gather, Mary and Joseph and we gather too, because...

Tonight Jesus is born in Bethlehem!

Let's draw closer to the stable now, to see that...

Tonight Jesus is born in Bethlehem!

OPENING PRAYER

On this holy and blessed night, O God, we are excited to come into your presence and find that your Holy Spirit is already here, making our spiritual home a cheerful and joyful place. The light of the candles, the warmth of our hearts, and the gift of Jesus make tonight a night like no other. It is truly a blessed and holy night! Welcome, gracious God. We welcome you and rejoice in your presence. **Amen.**

EXPECTING, AWAITING

Sandy Davis

LESSONS and CAROLS

The promise of the Saviour: A prophetic vision Isaiah 9:2,6-7a

The coming of the Saviour: An angelic message Luke 1:26-35, 38

SONG

O Holy Night Sung by Wendy Hamel

The birth of the Saviour: Arriving in Bethlehem Luke 2:1-7

WELCOMING THE CHRIST CHILD

Simon Ashdown Family

CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN VOICES UNITED # 73

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy V.1

SONG

Pippin the Christmas Pig

Adaptation of VU56 Jesus our Brother Kind and Good, Arrangement by M. Woytiuk

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Pippin the Christmas Pig

MARY'S JOURNAL:

“The Birth of Jesus”

The heavenly announcement: Angels sing on high Luke 2:8-14

HYMN VU 38

Angels We Have Heard on High (v.1 Fr, v.3 Eng)

The neighbours gather: Shepherds head into town Luke 2:15-20

SONG

Mary's Little Boy Child

by Jester Hairston arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

The new life: Christ's gift to us all

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

HYMN VOICES UNITED # 43

Go Tell It on The Mountain V 1,3

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

The Weber Family band


PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CLOSING HYMN VOICES UNITED # 67

SILENT NIGHT

BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING

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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Lisa Byer-de-Wever, Pastor

Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music

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UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

31-Dec	First Sunday after Christmas	Service at Roxboro United Church at 10:30 116 Rue Cartier, Roxboro, QC H8Y 1G8 Also streamed online
07-Jan	Epiphany	Back at 24 Maple at 10:30! Learning from the Wise Ones Led by Spiritual Formation