



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday, February 4, 2024

“Healing and Dignity in the face of discriminatory laws in Quebec.

What can we do?”

5th after Epiphany

Black History month begins.

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

CENTERING SONG

Gather the Spirit by Jim Scott

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY & CANDLE LIGHTING

Since time immemorial, Indigenous Peoples have occupied and cared for this land, the country many call Canada, from coast to coast to coast. In naming this particular land mass, even more specifically Montreal or Tiotiàke and environs, as Settlers we acknowledge this area as the traditional home of the Kaniekeha:ka, Hudon-Wendat and Anishnaabe Peoples.

As a community of faith, we seek to rebuild right relations with the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land, their land, with respect and gratitude for its creation and Creator.

This is our commitment.

Bill Perry, Consecon P.C., Carrying Place, Ont.

OPENING HYMN: MV # 145

Deep in Our Hearts

GATHERING PRAYER

Open our senses to the fragrance of Christ.
Open our minds to the teachings of Jesus.
Open our hearts to the love of God.
Open our actions to the movement of the Spirit.
Open us, Divine Healer, to the work of reconciliation
and the promise of wholeness into which we are called. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE: Challenges and Joy based on Mark 1:29–39

Saturday, a day of worship. A day of more teaching and healing. It was late afternoon when Jesus and his friends left the synagogue and walked the narrow streets of Capernaum towards Simon's house. They were looking forward to a delicious meal and a little rest.

When they arrived at Simon's house, they found everything hushed. Simon appeared in the doorway and shook his head. "My mother-in-law," he whispered, "she is suffering from a violent fever. We're not sure what to do. All day long she has been tossing from side to side, first shivering, then hot and in pain."

Jesus nodded in understanding, then went into the room where Simon's mother-in-law lay. There, Jesus saw a woman in bed, dry and hot and breathing with rapid gasps. Her eyes were closed, and her cheeks were flushed.

Silently, Jesus tiptoed over to the bed and gently took the woman's hand. He lifted her up, and at his touch alone the fever broke. Her eyelids fluttered open. She smiled. She started to clamber out of bed. The woman was well again.

"Come," she said to Jesus, "now it is my turn to care for you." She immediately prepared a meal for Jesus and his friends and found places for them to sleep. Sounds of laughter and good conversation filled the house again.

But it wasn't long before word spread throughout the town about Jesus' healing powers. People flocked to Simon's house hoping that Jesus would help them, too.

And Jesus did. Long into the evening Jesus and his friends comforted and healed the sick, the wounded, the distressed, and the lonely.

Early the next morning, when it was still dark, Jesus crept quietly out of the house. He was determined to find a quiet place where he could be in

silence, a place where he could have time with God. And through this prayer time with God, Jesus knew he would be ready to begin a new day, another day that would bring challenges and joy.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT QCGN Quebec Community Groups Network

HYMN VU #400 Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG MV#144 Like a Healing Stream

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We sing of thanksgiving and give with praise,
for the Gracious One gathers the outcast,
heals the broken-hearted, and binds all our wounds.
May God bless our offerings,
so that each of these gifts offered bring about
Your love, here on earth. Amen.

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

CLOSING HYMN: MV #45

You Are Holy


BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING

Let us go now into the world, not with power tightly grasped,

but with the humility to know we do not have all the answers.
Let us go now and share our lives of others, not to direct,
but to share in their brokenness as well as their hopes.
Let us go now into our communities, not with loud voices,
but with gentle whispers of grace and mercy.

SENDING/SONG

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring by Bach

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

office@mergingwaters.ca

(514) 457-5819

www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

04-Feb	5th after Epiphany "Healing and Dignity in the face of discriminatory laws in Quebec - What can we do?" Black History Month begins
11-Feb	Transfiguration Sunday ... and Super Bowl Sunday 
14-Feb	Shared Ash Wednesday service at Ste Genevieve United Church, 4697 Boul. Saint-Jean, Dollard-des-Ormeaux Time TBD Also, Valentine's day 
18-Feb	Intercultural Series #3: Introducing How Culture Works Observations & Perceptions, Definitions of Culture 1st in Lent