



Merging Waters United Church

Sunday, February 18, 2024

“Intercultural Series III- Introducing How Culture Works”

Black History month

Lent I

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

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Traditional Spiritual Arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY & CANDLE LIGHTING

As we light this candle today, we remember and honour the sacred fires around which First Nations peoples have gathered to receive stories of the Creator from Elders, especially the Kanienkeha:ka, Huron-Wendat and Anishnaabe Peoples.

We gather around this light to receive the faith stories of ancestors.

GATHERING PRAYER

We gather here today as we always do, Gracious God, knowing you are here.

We are anxious to be reassured about life and about our place in life.

But today is not like other days because today we begin our Lenten journey once again.

As we take time over the next five weeks to consider our discipleship and what it means to truly follow Jesus, help us to be mindful that we are all connected to each other, to the earth, and to you.

Give us insight on what are the things we can and need to let go of so that you may come to live more fully in our lives.

Give us the senses to notice injustice, spirits to risk in the name of those being oppressed, and hearts to embrace all who are wounded and traumatized.

Set us on a renewed path during this Lenten journey.

May we let go and let come.

This we pray in Jesus' name, whose path we follow. **Amen.**

Catherine Tovell, Kilworth U.C., London, Ont.

OPENING HYMN: VU # 702

When a Poor One

WEAVING GOD'S TAPESTRY – Ritual and Safe space

SCRIPTURE: John 13:34-35 NRSVUE

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

OBSERVATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS

1. How are perceptions formed?
2. Definitions of culture
3. What is Canada's culture? Quebec's? Beaufort UC's? Union St. Anne's? Merging Water's?

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Weave by Rosemary Crow

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, may what we have offered—

Of ourselves, of our resources, of our time—

Become a rainbow blessing of light for an aching world

among those of us gathered here, for our local community,

and for our world, blessed by the power of your abundant grace. **Amen.**

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER- IE:SOS ROTERENNAIENTAHTSHERISON IN KANIEN'KÉHA

Takwaién: 'a ne karonhià:ke tehsì:teron
Aiesahsén:naién, aiesawenniiosthake
Aiesawennarahkhwake nonhwentsà:ke
Tsi-ni:ioht ne karonhià:ke tiesawennarahkwa.
Tak wa:nont ne ken'wén:te iationhnhékwen
nia'tewenhnisera:ke
Sasa'nikonhrhen nionkwarihwanéren
Tsi ni:ioht ni: 'l tsonkwa 'nikonhrhens
Othé:nen ionkhi 'nikonhraksà:ton non:kwe
Tohsa aionkwa'shén:ni ne karihwanéren
Akwé:kon é:ren sha:wit ne iotaksen
Ehtho naia:wén!


BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING

From the, Jesus calls us to action, to restore God's house,
so all of creation will be a place where everyone shares in the blessings of God,
free from hunger, want, and injustice!
Let us go forth to bring restoration, hope, and justice.

Sandy Ferguson, Strathearn U.C., Edmonton, Alta.

SENDING/SONG

Everything is Beautiful
by Ray Stevens, arrangement 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.

25-Feb	Let Go, Let Come Lent II MWUC Annual General Meeting
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