Merging Waters United Church

Pyjama Sunday Sunday

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Morning Worship November 16, 2025

WELCOME / BIENVENUE

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome.	Toutes et tous sont bienvenus, peu importe l'âge, l'identité ou les conditions de vie.
Wherever you are, whoever you are, we welcome you in and community to worship.	Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans l'amour et la communauté pour louer Dieu ensembles.
Wherever we are, we're close in one another's hearts.	Notre amour n'est jamais limité par la distance.

Please join in the responses in **bold text.** Veuillez-vous joindre aux réponses en **texte gras.**

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.

Veillez à ce que notre culte soit exempt d'odeurs ! Pour aider les fidèles souffrant de sensibilités chimiques, nous vous demandons de ne pas porter de parfum ou de produits parfumés (lotion, laque) si vous assistez au culte en personne.

To protect personal privacy, please do not take photos or videos without authorization.

Pour protéger la vie privée, ne prenez pas de photos ou de vidéos sans autorisation.

WELCOME

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We continue to commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation, healing and hope with our siblings of the nations on which we worship and live.

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

We light the Christ candle, reminding us of the Christ light, present with us, within us, within each other.

GATHERING SONG: xx

xx

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Welcome in the name of the One who calls us to gather. Welcome as a member of this community on this day. May the One who calls us be praised and may our community be strengthened in the words, prayers, and songs we sing and share and pray today.

GATHERING PRAYER

Living God, we come together, with words of commitment and hymns of praise. May this time renew our spirits, so that confident in you, and emboldened by one another, we might return to the world in strength and grace. Inspire us to be faithful friends, generous neighbours, bold disciples, and daring advocates, encouraged by this community and your abiding love. In the name of the Holy One, Jesus. Amen.

Jennifer Henry, Grace U.C., Burlington, Ont.

GATHERING HYMN xx xx

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD Luke 21:5-19 MSG

Watch Out for Doomsday Deceivers

5-6 One day people were standing around talking about the Temple, remarking how beautiful it was, the splendor of its stonework and memorial gifts. Jesus said, "All this

you're admiring so much—the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble."
7 They asked him, "Teacher, when is this going to happen? What clue will we get that it's about to take place?"
8-9 He said, "Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, 'I'm the One,' or, 'The end is near.' Don't fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end."
10-11 He went on, "Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Huge earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. You'll think at times that the very sky is falling.
12-15 "But before any of this happens, they'll arrest you, hunt you down, and drag you to court and jail. It will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You'll end up on the witness stand, called to testify. Make up your mind right now not to worry about it. I'll give you the words and wisdom that will reduce all your accusers to stammers and stutters.
16-19 "You'll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There's no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head!—is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that's what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry; you'll be saved.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SONG xx

xx

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING HYMN TLUS#60 There's Enough for All

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God, we see the beautiful stones of the temple and the marvels of human achievement, yet your Son reminds us of their impermanence and the need to focus on what truly lasts. We bring these offerings in gratitude for your abundant blessings. Help us to use them for works of compassion and justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless, seeing the face of Jesus in others. May our stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives and help us to live simply, generously, and courageously, striving for the transformation of this world and your vision of beloved community. In your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We are not alone; we live in God's world. In times of fear and uncertainty, the scriptures remind us that God is with us, calling us to hope, justice, and courage. Let us offer our prayers to the Holy One, trusting in God's unwavering love.

Holy Creator, we look around and see signs of distress in the world: the impacts of climate change, the structures of injustice that seem as permanent as the temple stones, the rumours of wars, and the shaking of foundations we thought secure. We pray for all communities affected by disaster, conflict, and systemic brokenness. Help us not to be led astray by fear or false promises, but to attend to those most affected by injustice.
O God, hear our prayers.
And in your love, answer.

Embracing God, we remember those who face daily persecution, discrimination, and violence because of their beliefs or who they are. We lift up those in prisons of conscience, those on the margins of society, and those whose voices have been silenced. Grant them strength and courage. Inspire us to speak and act prophetically against injustice in all forms, standing in solidarity with the "least of these".
O God, hear our prayers.
And in your love, answer.

God of all life, in moments of trial, when it feels like our world is collapsing, we hold onto your promise of presence. We pray for the gift of resilience for all who are weary and faint. Help us to see our challenges as opportunities to bear witness to your truth and love. May our endurance not be a passive waiting, but an active trust in your ongoing work of creation and liberation, in our time and place.
O God, hear our prayers.
And in your love, answer.

We pray for our own communities of faith, here and around the world, as we navigate change and uncertainty. May we be communities of broken but hopeful believers, living what Jesus taught and striving to be faithful servants of God. Open our hearts and minds to new ways of being church, so that we may continue to be sources of hope, healing, and courageous love in a world that needs you so desperately.
O God, hear our prayers.
And in your love, answer.

In silence now, we offer the concerns and prayers of our hearts, knowing you are always there to listen even when we may not have the words...
(Moment of silent prayer)

Holy One, receive all these prayers, spoken and silent. Strengthen us to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Guide and our Hope.
And now, we pray together in the words Jesus taught us, saying,

JESUS' PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN xx xx

BLESSING & SENDING

Source of all hope, Creator of the "kin-dom" that is breaking into the empires of this world,
We give you thanks for your presence with us, even in the midst of turmoil and tribulation.

Bless us with a deep spirituality that grounds us in your love, so that we may trust in your providence over our panic.
Grant us bold discipleship that allows us to face a world of need without fear, offering radical welcome and safe haven to the displaced and lonely.
Inspire us to daring justice, so we may speak and act prophetically against injustice in all its forms, standing in costly solidarity with the marginalized, just as Jesus did.
Go forth into the world, rooted in hope and committed to justice. Trust that you are not alone; God walks with you still. Proclaim hope, not as a distant dream, but as a living truth, in word and deed.
In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer, go in peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG xx

xx

Thank you for joining in worship today ❤️

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH
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Merging Waters
United Church
Welcome Grace Service Love
Community

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UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

November 16	Pyjama Sunday! Special musical guests, the W.O.W. band
November 23	Intercultural #12
November 30	Advent begins: more detail coming soon! Spare Parts Women's Advent Event after worship