Merging Waters United Church

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday Morning Worship April 12, 2026

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 love 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

Let us begin by acknowledging that we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Kanienkehà:ka, Huron-Wendat and Anishinaabeg Peoples. **We acknowledge this land not as a formality, but with a deepening awareness of the difference of living on rather than living with this land.** We work to recognize that our beliefs about ownership and commodifying have been shaped by colonialism. **We commit ourselves to listening and, learning, to support Indigenous sovereignty and land rights in our daily actions.**

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

Jesus, you are the light in our messy world. **We bring you our worries and our doubts. We cast aside the fear that you are not with us.** As we light this candle, we choose to believe that all will be well and you are in control, even when the world seems turned upside down.

United Church, Call & Vocation: Prayers for Use in Worship

GATHERING SONG: Let It Be (Instrumental)

Written by John Lennon & Paul McCartney, Arrangement Crawford

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Trust

ME: Sometimes, when things are hardest, it feels like Creator's not listening.

OLD WOMAN: Creator can do whatever Creator chooses. When we are in doubt or confusion or fear, She could sends us thunderbolts or lightning or a huge pile of unexpected cash. But most of the time, she sends people. People are the miracles that emerge from the ripped and worn pattern of your life and help you stitch it back together. You learn to see pattern better then.

Written by Richard Wagamese, Embers

GATHERING PRAYER

In our doubts and in our fears,
in our loss and in our tears,
in our hope and in our living,
in our receiving and in our giving,
in our questions and in our query,
in our excitement and when we're weary,
we know that you are with all creation,

Rock of our lives!
As we open our hearts to your presence,
as we open our hearts to each other,
help us to open our hearts to your world,
that we might reach out,
touch, and know,
that your love lives,
now and always.
In your name we pray – Amen.

Written by Richard Bott – United Church of Canada, Moderators Online Worship, April 19, 2020

GATHERING HYMN MV#85 ENG, FR,ENG Take, O Take Me as I Am

English:
Take, O take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me.

French:
Oh! Prends-moi, tel que je suis
Fais-moi vivre que pour toi
Viens, met ton sceau sur mon cœur
Viens vivre en moi.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD John 20:19-31 FNVNT

His Followers See Him

19 It was now late in the same day, the first day of the week. His followers were all hiding behind locked doors in fear of being captured by the tribal leaders.

Suddenly, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) himself was standing in front of them and said, "Peace be with you!"

20 He then showed them where the iron nails had pierced his hands and where the spear had cut into his side.

When they saw their Wisdomkeeper, the hearts of his followers were filled with joy, 21 so he said to them again, "Peace be with you! In the same way the Father above has sent me, I am now sending you."

22 He blew his breath on them and said, "*You will breathe in and* receive the Holy Spirit. *With his wisdom and guidance*, 23 if you release others from their bad hearts and broken ways, they are released. If you do not release them, they are not released."

Put Away Your Doubts

[24]Looks Like His Brother (Thomas), one of the original twelve followers, was not there when Creator Sets Free (Jesus) showed himself to the others. [25]They told him, "We have seen the Wisdomkeeper with our own eyes."

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into them, and put my hand into the hole in his side, I will not believe."

[26]Eight days later his followers were gathered together again, and Looks Like His Brother (Thomas) was with them. The doors were all locked, but Creator Sets Free (Jesus) came in and stood before them all.

"Peace be with you," he said. [27] Then he turned to Looks Like His Brother (Thomas) and said, "Look closely at my hands and touch my scars with your finger. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Then put away your doubts and trust in me."

[28]"You are my Honored Chief and my Creator," he said.

[29]"Now you believe, because you have seen me?" he said to him. "A greater blessing will rest on the ones who have not seen but still believe."

[30]Creator Sets Free (Jesus) did many more powerful signs before the eyes of his followers that have not been written down in this book. [31]But I have told this much so you will believe that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) is the Chosen One, the Son of the Great Spirit. When you put your trust in all that his name represents, the life of beauty and harmony he has promised to all will be yours.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SONG — Searching and Seeking

Theme words by Vicki Cowan, music by Pierre Gallant 2016

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING HYMN VU# 958 — Halle, Halle, Halle

Halle, halle, halle lujah!
Halle, halle, halle lujah!
Halle, halle, halle lujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Creator.
(Moment of Silence)
For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, war, fear, injustice, and oppression.
For all who are in doubt, unbelief, danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and those "deemed needy."
For the peace and unity of the Church
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation
(Moment of Silence)
For all leaders in governments, community, and workplaces. Grant them wisdom that comes from above, that their decisions may be guided by justice, truth, and compassion and not hate, fear, greed and resources.
Give them the courage to do what is right, even when it is difficult, and the humility to serve those they lead. May they act with integrity, promote peace, and protect the well-being of all people, ultimately honoring You in their actions. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, Form VI, Adapted by Carling Barry

JESUS' PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

Wondrous universe-Creator God, who is everything,
We have met you on earth and we will live out your requests.
Provide us with the basics we need to live,
and may the path we take be a Holy Adventure.
Glorious God, allow us to see you in every way and,
let your light shine like a candle's glow to lead us home.
You are the Holy One, Peacemaker, Justice Provider,
Emmanuel of all people. Amen

SoulBeat, February 2011

CLOSING HYMN MV #156 — Dance with the Spirit

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',

move with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
Sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

BLESSING & SENDING

Follow Creator's call out from this place and seek Creator's face in Creator's people everywhere.
I hope you approach doubt with curiosity rather than judgment.
Take with you the blessing of the Spirit, who moves amongst us inviting all people into Creator's expanding story of love.

Called to Be the Church Congregational Giving Program 2025-
The United Church of Canada & Adapted by Carling Barry

SENDING SONG

New World in the Morning

Roger Whittaker

Thank you for joining in worship today ❤️

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

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Merging Waters
United Church
Welcome Grace Service Love
Community

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

April 12	Worship leadership by our intern Carling Barry ✝️
April 19	Earth Day celebration 🌎 Blessing the bikes 🚲 Spare Parts 🎶
April 26	Communion 📦 🍷
May 3	Intercultural #14 🗣️