Merging Waters United Church

6th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Red Dress Day

Sunday Morning Worship May 10, 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

As we gather today, **we acknowledge that the land we must learn to gently walk upon is a source of life and nourishment, deeply connected to the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Indigenous Peoples who have lived here since time immemorial.**

We recognize that violence against the earth through exploitation, resource extraction and pollution is linked to the violence and systemic oppression faced by Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Peoples.

The Red Dresses we are wearing and are hung in this space symbolize the spirits of those who have died or are missing, reminding us that when the land is violated, its stewards are also targeted.

We honour the resilience of Indigenous Families and the REDress Project created by Jamie Black, which brings awareness to this national tragedy. We acknowledge our collective responsibility to act in solidarity, to speak out against racism, sexism and violence, and to work towards healing both the land and all our communities.

We recommit to working together to uphold the calls for justice and support the safety and sovereignty of Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SPLGBTQQIA+ people on this day and all days.

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

We light this Christ candle today, not only to remember that Jesus is the light of the world, but to bring light to the hiddenness of injustice and violence. We light it for the MMIWG2SP. We pray for their families, their communities, their ancestors for healing, and for a commitment to create a safer world. May this light from you, this candle shine upon us and guide us in the work of Right Relations & True Reconciliation

Grace *United Church, 2026 Adapted by Carling Barry*

GATHERING SONG: TLUS # 142 As a Parent holds a child

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

My deal with Creator is this: I'm dragging a sack of old worries, hurt, anger, doubt and fear up a long hill trying to get to the other side, to relief, to healing.

Creator says, "If you need a hand, I'm here. You pull and I'll push." I say, "Really?"

Creator says "I promise that I will always be there to help you. But there's a catch."

I say, "What's the catch?" Creator says, "You have to pull first."

- Richard Wagamese, Embers Pg. 70)

Wagamese speaks on how he had to somehow learn to write and then write about God/, nature, silence and solitude. His messages here about Creator and Mother Nature are mystical:
"Writing is best and strongest when culled from the battles and the glories of everyday life…You have to be willing to sacrifice comfort and safety sometimes, in order to get to the heart of things – and you can never lose sight of love and God or Creator or however you identify the source of the mystery all around us. And you have to tell your story to someone – plainly, directly, openly. It comes from the spirit place…. So it is our soul's mission to learn to love. Remember that we spring from love and hold your loved ones close." - Richard Wagamese What Comes from Spirit, Pg. 85.

GATHERING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, advocate of truth, love, justice and reconciliation. As we gather, we open our hearts to your gentle guidance. Teach us the way we must go, that we may bring love where there is hatred, Justice where there is wrong, and reconciliation where there is division. Fill us with your fire, that we might be instruments of your healing grace, working to create a world where all people are treated with respect, dignity, love and peace. Come, Holy Spirit, and make us one. Amen.

Written by Carling Barry, based off of Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

GATHERING HYMN MV#79 Spirit, Open My Heart

A BLESSING FOR MOTHER'S DAY By Kate Bowler

O God of love, it is such a joy to bless our moms—those who have carried us in their bodies, and in their hearts, and in their minds, and all those who have mothered us in some form or fashion.

We thank them and honor them all, those we can hug today, and those who are now gone or distant from us.

We ask Your blessing too on those for whom mothering is complicated, difficult, heartbreaking, or incomplete.

Bless and heal and restore and rebuild all generations, forwards and backwards in time.

God, with all the genius of Your creative power, rain down Your blessing upon the mothering we give, and that which we have received.

Be to us the nurturing embrace we need to lead and guide us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD — John 14:15-21 FNVNT

PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

15"If you love me, you will walk in my ways. 16 I will ask the Father to send one who
will always walk beside you and guide you on the good road. 17He is the Spirit of
Truth, the one this world is not able to accept because it does not see or know him.
But you know him, for he is with you now and will soon be in you.

18"I will not leave you like a child with no parents. I will come back to you. 19Soon this
world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I will live again, you will
also live. 20When that day comes, you will know that I am in the Father, that you are
in me, and that I am in you. 21 The ones who walk in my ways and stay true to my
message love me. They will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and show
them my true self."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

HYMN MV # 150 — Spirit God, Be Our Breath

OFFERING INVITATION

I invite you all to join our hearts with the Spirit's work. Let us offer our gifts (time, talents, presence, money etc. to Creator, that they may be used for love, healing, justice, and reconciliation in our community and beyond.

OFFERING SONG — Child of God

Spiritual, arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Compassionate Creator, we offer these gifts as symbols of our lives of service, dedicated to you, and for your kin-dom and all creation. We ask for the outpouring of your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate. Guide us & teach us Spirit, to love deeply, to act justly in a broken world, to walk humbly with you, to pursue peace, and to be agents

of reconciliation in our communities and the world. May these offerings—and our lives—be instruments of your kin-dom of grace, in Jesus' name. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Creator, Mother of Compassion, and Source of All Life,
We come before you today with heavy hearts yet lifted by the hope of your love & presence. We lift up the voices who have been silenced, the broken-hearted, and those whose spirits are weary.
Creator, in your compassion, hear our prayer

We remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Peoples. As we see the empty red dresses, we feel the void they left behind, the heaviness and the ongoing trauma of colonial violence. We also see the solidarity for the MMWG2S in those wearing the red dresses or hanging them up. We pray for justice for our Stolen Sisters, Brothers, and Two-Spirit kin. We pray for the families and communities who continue to search, and we ask that you bring their loved ones home to rest.
Creator, in your compassion, hear our prayer

We pray for all women and girls experiencing violence, oppression, and marginalization. Heal the deep wounds of abuse and fear, and empower us to be, rather than silent witnesses, protectors of one another.
Creator, in your compassion, hear our prayer

Creator, we pray for an end to the wars, hatred, and deep divisions that plague our global community. Break down the walls of racism, colonialism, and systemic oppression that treat some lives as less worthy than others.
Creator, in your compassion, hear our prayer

We bring before you all who are marginalized, forgotten, and struggling to survive. Comfort those who are having mental health or physical health challenges, experiencing poverty, homelessness, and loss.
Creator, in your compassion, hear our prayer

Creator, we hear your call to act. We commit to creating an awareness, to hanging the red dresses, and to being voices for change. May your love heal our community, the world, our spirits, and the generations to come
Creator, in your compassion, hear our prayer

Creator you are a mother to us,
You cry over us, protect us, and care for us;
Creator we give thanks to you for mothering us
And we give thanks to you for the mothers of the world.
We pray for all mothers, young and old, near and far. May they feel your presence and your peace surrounding them. Give them strength and courage as they navigate motherhood in these times and throughout life.

We hold space for the mothers who have lost children to violence and systemic failure. We pray for those who cannot be mothers but yearn to be, and those who have never known the embrace of a mother. We lift up those with strained or broken relationships with their mothers, asking for healing, forgiveness, and peace. **Amen**

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

BLESSING & SENDING

Remember You are Blessed and a Blessing. Let us remember to use our blessings to bless all those who are in need.

We send you forth to be advocates for the vulnerable, to speak truth to power, and to shine a light on the hiddenness of gender-based violence.
May the Spirit of Truth guide you in dismantling systems of racism, sexism, patriarchy, and colonial oppression.
Go forth to be peacemakers in a world divided by conflict and war. May the Spirit of Reconciliation, the Comforter, strengthen you to mend broken relationships, heal families and communities, and nurture a culture where every person is treated with respect, dignity and love.
Go forth as people of action—not just in words, but in deed. As you see the red dress, remember the call to accountability. As you hear of injustice, act with courage. As you witness division, bring the reconciling love of the Creator. The Holy Spirit, our Advocate, goes with you to bring peace on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

SENDING SONG Many Gifts One Spirit

Words & Music by Allen Pote

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.

May 10	Easter VI Mother's Day Red Dress Sunday
May 17	We share worship at St George's Anglican Church! **Note start time 10:00 am** 23 Perrault, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
May 24	Merging Waters hosts the WIBUC for Pentecost!
May 31	Visit from Communitas during worship and for a panel afterward Bring your own lunch
June 7	We play host to St George's! Worship at 10:30 as usual