Christi Belcourt

Merging Waters United Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mental Health Sunday

Beginning of Asian Heritage Month

Sunday Morning Worship May 3, 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

KANIENKEHA:KÀ- HURON-WENDAT- ANISHNAABEG

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

GATHERING SONG: The River Flows in You

Korean piano piece by Yiruma

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

We come to this place of gathering as a community dedicated to the way of love,
rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ.
We gather to learn and unlearn,
to inspire and encourage,
and to celebrate and lament.

While we come to learn more about you God,
we also come knowing that you are so much more than the boxes we put you in:
God, Allah, Budda, Creator, Yahweh, Creation and so many more names.
For the moment we try to define you O Holy Mystery,
You are no longer "that which is beyond our understanding",
"that which is greater than ourselves",
"that which is love."

Let us be open to learning
about you through many lenses & perspectives.
Our sacred texts remind us that there are "many rooms in your house"
many paths to You.

Let us breathe into that unknowing, that mystery,
let us breathe into that which connects us and all of Creation to You,
for that is what it means to have faith.
that is what it means to follow Your way of love.
Come let us learn together.

GATHERING PRAYER

Creator of all,
We give you thanks for this time to journey with you
and this community of seekers.

Creator God, in this time of worship, help us once
again to experience your voice. Ready us to follow
your lead. Sometimes, especially when we are
confused, saddened, or upset, as the disciples
were after you had left them, we find it hard to
notice a new way, to choose a different path.

Bless our learning and unlearning,
as we seek to nourish our spiritual selves.
Remind us that you are always with us and there
is always a way through, if we keep our minds
open and our hearts connected with yours. Amen.

Adapted from the Gathering LE 2026- ***Catherine Tovell,*** *Kilworth U.C., London, Ont.*

GATHERING HYMN MV # 37 Each Blade of Grass

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD John 14:1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father
14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe[a] in God; believe also in me. **2** In my
Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?[b] **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will
come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be
also. **4** And you know the way to the place where I am going."[c] **5** Thomas said to him,
"Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" **6** Jesus
said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me. **7** If you know me, you will know[d] my Father also. From now on
you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to
him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the
Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The
words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me
does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you
do not, then believe[e] because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one
who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works
than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me[f] for
anything, I will do it.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SONG TLUS # 50 As the Moon

OFFERING INVITATION

Because God always has a place for us, we come in thanksgiving. We celebrate the abundance of God’s grace and welcome by sharing our gifts, that others may experience that welcome.

OFFERING HYMN VU # 958 Halle Halle Halle

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, in abundance we gather before you. We open our spirits to you. You invite us to be generous in your name to all. Help us to share your many blessings through our own generous gifts, in our community and around the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, we come before you with hearts both troubled and hopeful, seeking your presence in our lives and in our world.
In you, we place our trust.

Jesus, you remind us: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.”
We give thanks for the promise of your presence, for the assurance that you are preparing a place for all—no one is left behind.
We trust in your way, your truth, and your life.

For the many rooms in your Father’s house, where all are welcome—

for the stranger, the refugee, the lonely, and the forgotten,
we give you thanks.
May your house be a home for all.

For the gift of your Spirit, which unites us across divides of culture, language, and belief, we give you thanks.
May your Spirit guide us into deeper unity.

Yet, O God, we confess that our hearts are often troubled.
We turn away from your way when we prioritize our own comfort over justice.
We doubt your promises when the world feels uncertain.
We fail to see your face in our neighbors, especially those who are different from us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Jesus, you said, "I am the way."
Forgive us when we create barriers instead of paths to you.
Heal our divisions and help us to follow your way of love and humility.
Restore us, O God to our authentic spiritual selves

We pray for the world, groaning under the weight of conflict, poverty, and environmental destruction.
May your Spirit move us to act with compassion, as you did.

We pray for the United Church of Canada—
for its leaders, its congregations, this West Island and Beyond Cluster, and the whole church's ministry of reconciliation.
May we be a church that welcomes all,
that seeks justice for the oppressed,
and that proclaims your love in word and deed.

We bring before you our own prayers—
for those who are sick, grieving, or in need of hope,
for those who doubt or feel lost,
for those who long to see your face in their lives.

Jesus, you said, "Ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."
We ask for your healing presence in our lives and in our world.
Hear our prayers, O God.

JESUS' PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER SUNG

Notre Père
Lambert

CLOSING HYMN TLUS # 98

When Pain or Sorrow (Hold On)

BLESSING & SENDING

Jesus, you are the way, the truth, and the life.
Send us forth to walk in your way,
to speak your truth with love,
to recognize the holy in the many paths that lead to love,
and to share the life that comes from you.
May we go in peace, trusting in your promises.

And may the grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG

I've Been Healing

Thank you for joining in worship today ♥

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

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UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

May 3	Easter V Mental Health Sunday Asian Heritage Month Begins
May 10	Easter VI Mother's Day 💐 Carling Barry (Student Minister) Leading the Service
May 17	Service @ St. George's Anglican Church
May 24	Hosting the UC Cluster