Merging Waters United Church

Creation 4

“Hope for Creation”

Sunday Morning Worship October 4, 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

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

We were made in Creator God's love. Jesus came to us to teach us God's love. The Spirit of God abides with us, fueling our love. In love, we light this candle recalling how all we begin in love, live in love, and continue in love—for God is love.

The Gathering - P1- *Whitney Bruno, Little Current and Sheguiandah U.C., Little Current, Ont.*

GATHERING SONG: To My Old Brown Earth

Words and music by Pete Seegar, arrangement Michael Woytiuk

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Breath invitation

Beloved of God, when we recognize the ways in which our society takes advantage of God's abundance, how will we answer?
God of hope, renew us this day that, in your abundance, we may find new ways to support your creation.

Beloved of God, when our efforts toward change leave us feeling drained, how will we answer?
God of hope, replenish us this day that, in your love, we may stand invigorated, ready to accomplish your work.

Beloved of God, just as rain sent from heaven waters the earth, nourishing life and accomplishing its purpose, let God's presence wash afresh over us.
Renew and refresh us, O God, that we may embrace your presence so that we may be your conduits of hope in our world.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Kelby Werner - adapted

GATHERING PRAYER

God of hope, we acknowledge that our world is one in which your abundant and sustainable resources are taken for granted, hoarded, and wasted for earthly profit. In this moment, we come to you as intentional community seeking you in praise and worship with the weight of the world laying heavy on our hearts.

O God, let us instead feel your presence, for we know that there is nothing on earth that compares to your love of creation, to your goodness, and to your abundant kindness. Allow us to put our hope in you with the knowledge that through you all things are possible. Let your goodness and love wash over us that we may be your presence of kindness on this earth. That in this kindness, we may find a wider more diverse community, an end to exploitation and injustice, and a world defined by your perfect peace and love. Amen.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Kelby Werner - adapted

GATHERING HYMN MV # 135 — Called by Earth and Sky

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD — Isaiah 55:10-13 NRSVUE

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
12 For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING HYMN — Love Is Something If You Give It Away

Words and Music by Malvina Reynolds

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.

Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.

For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of renewal, when you send forth your word, the world is made new. Plant in us a hope rooted in your promise to restore the earth. As we offer our gifts, may our giving contribute to your work of redemption and bloom into beauty where it is most needed; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Dr. Brian Smith - adapted

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of glory, beauty, and grandeur— God of sanctuary and justice— even the trees and forests shout joyfully to You! You make the earth rejoice by Your love and grace. Let us be as faithful as the forest, as worthy as the rolling hills and meadows,
Forgive us, O God. You who made the heavens and every blade of grass know the harm we have done to one another and to creation. You call us to justice.
We cry to You, O God. Hear our prayers!

Creator of all that breathes and grows, You have woven the world in generosity— soil and seed, wind and wing, water that remembers its way home. Teach us again the wisdom of reciprocity, that we may give as we receive, care as we are cared for, and live as part of the great circle of renewal.
When the earth groans under our forgetting, restore in us the courage to mend. When despair takes root, let hope sprout like serviceberries after winter— sweet, resilient, and shared among all beings.
Renew us, O God of life.

Just and compassionate One, turn our hearts to reciprocity and abundance. Make us good and worthy stewards of this earth. By Your grace we will join the chorus: "God has set the world firmly in place; it will not be shaken."
Let the earth and all people rejoice!

Caring and Holy One, give strength and courage to the people and places in our lives that need care, healing and restoration.
O Holy Love, hear our prayers!

Moment of silence

Bless our hands to heal the land, our hearts to trust in Your renewing Spirit, and our communities to live the gospel of right relationship— with You, with one another, and with creation itself.
In Christ, who makes all things new, we pray. Amen.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Richenda Fairhurst - adapted

JESUS' PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORLDWIDE COMMUNION/ A LOVE FEAST

Communion Hymn TLUS # 23 vs 1,2,3 For Everyone Born

Invitation to Communion

Recognition
Creator God, we confess we have not acted as stewards of this earth, as you intended. Our modern world uses up the forests, soils, and water far faster than this planet, your creation, our earth, can replenish. We waste what is given, including food and grain, and are not watchful that our neighbors have enough.
Forgive us. Teach us to be the stewards you wish us to be. Let the Spirit come.

Pause
Bountiful God, your mercy is without measure. Your abundance is everywhere a sign of your love and care for us and every creature. We will turn and remember your laws. We will seek your Grace. In Jesus's name, we are forgiven and freed to follow you.
Amen.

Thanksgiving For the Gifts of Creation
The Lord be with you!
And also, with you!
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up with gratitude and hope for all creation!
Praise be to God!
Praise be to God.

A Blessing for The Honey and The Feast

Communion Hymn TLUS # 23 vs 6 — For Everyone Born

Prayer after Communion
We thank you for inviting us to the table and feeding us with the abundance of your blessing and grace. May we journey in the strength of this food to places where we can serve your people and deepen our faith. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN MV # 30 — It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

BLESSING & SENDING

To give is to love.
To love is to live.
To live is to grow.
To grow is to flourish.

May we who follow Jesus
enter into Communion
with God's self-giving love.
May we sing the life and love
of Christ in the world
this day and beyond.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Paul Mitchell - adapted

SENDING SONG — What the World Needs Now

Music Burt Bacharach- Hal David

Thank you for joining in worship today ♥

Date	Worship Notes	Family Activities
4-Oct	Creation Time 4: Hope for Creation World Communion Sunday Try communion differently!	Carling leads the children and youth family program.
11-Oct	Creation Time 5: Bringing it all together Thanksgiving Sunday: Think about what you are thankful for! Please bring a nonperishable food item	Carling leads the children and youth family program.
18-Oct	World Food Sunday Special presentation on West Island food security projects, from Table de Quartier	Join Lynn and Susan at the family table

25-Oct	Pyjama Sunday! 🧸 Music by Spare Parts 🎸 😈 Please bring donations of socks for our 2nd annual Socktober! 🎶 Special brunch after worship	Wear your PJs! 🧸 Join Lynn and Susan at the family table Bring sock donations to throw after worship! 🎶 Special breakfast for lunch 😋
1-Nov	All Saints: Remembering those we lost last year 🖤	Wait and see 😉

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada
24 Maple, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
Rev. Lisa Byer-de-Wever, Minister
Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music
Jenna Peace, Office Administrator
Carling Barry, Family Program Coordinator
office@mergingwaters.ca
(514) 457-5819
www.mergingwaters.ca

Merging Waters
United Church

Welcome Grace Service Love
Community