

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge Online Worship

Sunday March 22nd, 2020

4th Sunday of Lent

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome in the Merging Waters family. Wherever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship.

Physically distant but close in one another's hearts.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Bold print for congregational response

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples and nations. Merging Waters honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

LIGHTING THE LIGHT OF LIFE *light a candle at home if it is safe to do so*

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Seeking to find you God,

We hear your voice in the darkness and the light.

In the deepest of despair,

You call us to banquets of hope.

In our struggles and our comfort,

Your Spirit calls us into the ways of love.

HYMN MV 17

God In The Darkness

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Spirit of Life, we take this time of worship to find rest and embrace your peace. Remind us, Loving God, that you are always with us. Give us, in this time, O God, new vision in your light that brightens paths through hardship and to see the beauty in the restful darkness. Let us find restoration and repose in your love. Amen

SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-4

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

"Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

Some were saying,

"It is he."

Others were saying,

"No, but it is someone like him."

He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said,

"I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. It was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

HYMN VU 371

Open My Eyes, That I May See

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Eye Openers

OFFERING

We offer our prayer, reflections, and resources

MUSICAL OFFERING

Ondonaté from Concierto 21

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart played by Michael Woytiuk

If you are not on pre-authorized remittance (PAR) and want to continue to support Merging Waters please click these links, or those provided on the site to give to: [Union Church](#) or [Beaurepaire United](#) through [CanadaHelps.org](#)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**May these gifts provide for your work to be done.
May they bring hope to those in fear and peace to those in despair.
Revealing love through the work they support. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

THE JESUS PRAYER FOR TODAY

O, Source of Life

Connectedness beyond simple perception,

We hold our experience of you as sacred.

May we choose to live the good you call for

In our lives as well as our imaginings.

Nourish our bodies and spirits inspiring us

To share the abundance we have.

Challenge us to show understanding and love for others

As we need to be understood and loved.

Help us overcome our shortcomings

To be our best selves

As you have, do, and will always know we can

Forever and ever.

May we all make it so.

Amen

HYMN VU 509

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky (Here I am, Lord)

COMMISSIONING

From this time of worship,

We emerge refreshed and hopeful.

With God as our companion,

We are never alone.

Sun, moon, and sky,

Connect us in love with all creation day and night.

BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Thank you for joining us today.

MERGING WATERS PASTORAL CHARGE

UNION CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.

« An Affirming Congregation »

Pierre Gallant; Union Musician

Email: piregnt@hotmail.com

&

BEAUREPAIRE UNITED CHURCH

BEACONSFIELD, QUE.

Michael Woytiuk; Ministry of Music

Rev. Ryan Fea, Ordained Minister

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Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge



Welcome Grace Service Love
Community

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

March 22nd.	mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online
March 29th.	mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online
April 5th.	TBD Palm Sunday
April 9th.	TBD Good Friday
April 12th.	TBD Easter Sunday
April 13th.	TBD 2nd Sunday of Easter

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God in the Darkness

God in the darkness, God beyond our knowing,
patient creator, seed in secret growing,
rock of the living, water ever flowing,
come and renew us.

God in the darkness, God in all our grieving,
friend of our tears, companion never leaving,
drawing us past the limits of believing,
come and renew us.

God in the darkness, God of holy dreaming,
giver of hope, and pledge of our redeeming,
Spirit of truth, our memory and meaning,
come and renew us.

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
 I who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will beat my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
 I have borne my people's pain,
 I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them.
 Whom shall I send? R

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame,
 I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide
 till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send? R

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that the office is closed for the foreseeable future.

Please be patient when sending messages to the office through email or over the phone as Susan Smith, office administrator extraordinaire, is away for two weeks on a planned visit to her family in BC. Messages will be checked and replied to as soon as possible. When Susan is back she, like Rev. Ryan and other staff, will work from home, to keep the life of the community growing and adapting to life today.

Gatherings Postponed: As we all deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 virus on daily life it both Merging Waters Pastoral Charge preaching points will be closing their buildings for time being. The buildings will be checked in on regularly by members of the buildings committees. Many groups have halted their gathering practice and gone online, remember to check their websites or call if you are still deciding to head out.

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is a community that cares: In this time of trial we are here for one another. Rev. Ryan and the pastoral care team are here for you and available through email, phone, and instant messenger. Please reach out to one another in support – stay in touch with others and ask for help when you need it. We may not be in the same room but we are in one another's hearts and in the love of God. We aren't sharing germs but we are sharing the love. Keep in touch.

Rev. Ryan Fea: ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com

Ivy Lewis Union Pastoral Care Chair: lewisir@hotmail.com

Diane Nene Bearepaire Pastoral Care Coordinator:

dianenener@icloud.com

Spiritual Practices: We aren't meeting in-person but we are still supporting those practices that nurture the faith life of the community. Check out the new Merging Waters Web resources at www.mergingwaters.ca Click on "Spiritual Life" in the menu and find new pages dedicated to at-home yoga, meditation and contemplation, and our online worship. Keep an eye out for new option for connecting with Rev. Ryan for times of study/discussion, reflection, and prayer online.

Church Online: Worship will be held online Sundays at 10:30 am. Please join us at www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online/ and you will find videos, music, and the opportunity to make your weekly offerings. On top of allowing us to worship together while physically distancing you also have no parking problems, you can refill your coffee anytime, church in your pajamas, you can mute the pastor – but don't.

Please note that the planned joint worship at Summerlea United Church for March 29th has been postponed, we will continue to worship online.

Joy And Concern: Are there individuals and situations that you would ask that we pray for aloud in the time of prayer at this week's online worship? Please email them to Rev. Ryan at ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com by Friday night. If you miss the time to submit any not included in the service will be prayed for in our hearts or during next week by the prayer circle.

Lent discipline: An environmental challenge

Week four – reducing waste and pollution

Landfill mountains have risen like monuments to our waste-making society. Councils who have introduced recycling schemes are to be praised, but, sadly, our national annual volume of waste is increasing faster than the amount going into recycling. Change is up to us. We have choices. We are responsible for the amount of waste we create and the way we dispose of it.

Actions - Choose two or three of these:

- Don't buy anything that has more than one wrapping
- Buy recycled products
- Avoid individually wrapped and bleached sanitary items
- Don't flush non-degradable items down the loo
- Use recycled bin liners, or don't use bin liners and wash out the rubbish container
- Set yourself a target for waste reduction
- Use only biodegradable detergents
- Measure and record the amount of rubbish that you don't reuse or recycle
- Don't buy anything that you can't eat or recycle in its entirety (including packaging)
- Compost your kitchen and garden waste
- Buy in bulk, but not more than you need, if this reduces packaging and you can carry the items home
- Use organic products if your garden (fertilisers, weed control, pest control)
- Buy organic – avoid products from intensive farming
- Repair products whenever possible

Research and campaigning - Choose one of these:

- Write to your MP about reducing our dependence on nuclear power
- Ask your local council about how it recycles – what it collects and why it doesn't collect more

From: Eggs and ashes Practical & liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week by Ruth Burgess & Chris Polhill, Wild Goose Publications (2004), ISBN 978-1-901557-87-09, pp.51.

Prayer Of Fransiscan Conservation

Living God,
Where there is waste, let us bring recycling;
Where there is recycling, let us bring reuse;
Where there is reuse, let us bring sustainability;
Where there is sustainability, let us bring justice;
Where there is justice, let us bring love.

John Polhill

Reusing

Jesus our Saviour,
Take our rubbish,
The greed indulged,
The broken promises,
Anger, resentments.

Take the long list of sin
That wraps our being,
and weave your forgiving love
That makes of waste
A growing place.

Chris Polhill

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