



Sunday Morning Worship
December 13th, 2020

Advent 3 – Joy

WELCOME

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life
are
welcome in the Merging Waters family.
Wherever you are, whoever you are we
welcome you in love and community to
worship.
Wherever we are we're close in
one another's hearts.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Bold print indicates text to read/sing/pray in unison

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 and live today.

MUSICAL CENTERING

Waltz of the Flowers
by Piotr Tchaikovsky
piano arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

light a candle at home if it is safe to do so

CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW

We Are A Rainbow

by David Kai (verse 1 & chorus)

**We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more,
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.**

**We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**



WE APPROACH IN JOY

God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and bind up the broken hearted. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Awaken us, Lover of the Universe, to the joy of newborn hope, peace and justice found in your Word. Fill us with your Spirit this season so that our voices declare your goodness and our lives proclaim your mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN VOICES UNITED 60 O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See, how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R

THE WORD OF JOY

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

SIGNS OF JOY

In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.

**Knowing that Christ is coming to bring healing
and wholeness to the world is a source of delight!**

When we gather for worship it is a celebration,
an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing
among us and beyond us.

We welcome our neighbours and celebrate God's goodness.

Even when we face difficulty and trouble, we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.

We light the candles of Joy



HYMN VOICES UNITED 7

Hope Is A Star

(verses 1,2,&3)

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

[Refrain:]

**When God is a child
there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first
and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. R**

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. R**

THE WORD OF JOY

Isaiah 61:1-2

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me;
**The Divine has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.**

HYMN VOICES UNITED 38

Angels We Have Heard On High

(verses 1 & 2)

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

SHARING OUR STORIES

Inspired In Joy



OFFERING

We offer our prayer, time, talent, reflections, and resources

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](#)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Les Cloches de Noel

arranged by Michael Woytiuk

Kerry-Anne Kutz, soprano Michael Cartile, trumpet Michael Woytiuk, piano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and bind up the broken hearted. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Fill us with your Spirit this season so that our voices declare your goodness and our lives proclaim your mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSINGS VOICES UNITED 55

In The Bleak Midwinter

(verse 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

THE WORD OF JOY

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.



HYMN VOICES UNITED 59

Joy To The World

(verses. 1 & 2)

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the Earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Joy
Ode To Joy by Beethoven
piano and choral arrangement by Pierre Gallant
'Gift of Light' Choir

Thank you to for joining us today



**MERGING WATERS PASTORAL CHARGE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
UNION CHURCH**



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
ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com

Susan Smith, Office Administrator
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www.mergingwaters.ca

**Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge**



*Welcome Grace Service Love
Community*

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

Dec 13th.	Advent 3 Joy
Dec 16th.	Blue Christmas Service (19h30-21h) please register online https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/blue-christmas-noel-bleu-2020-tickets-130507213589
Dec 20th.	Advent 4 Love
Dec 24th.	Christmas Eve
Dec 27th.	First Sunday after Christmas – Shared Ecumenical Worship
Jan 3rd.	Epiphany
Jan 10th.	Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Worship at Merging Waters: Sunday www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online

Links for the Zoom Service will be available at on that page

Download the Zoom App at zoom.us/download

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Right Rev. Richard Bott – has an Advent message for you: <https://youtu.be/LABIYLZWtr8>
You don't want to miss this one.

🎄 Union Church is looking for 3 or 4 strings of **outdoor lights** to decorate the shrubs around the outdoor sign at the Church. The stores seem to all out of lights this year so if you can help please contact Eric Norris at 514-457-3568.

COMING DECEMBER 13th Check out the **12 Days Before Christmas**, brought to us by Pierre Gallant and the people of Merging Waters:

It is like a normal advent calendar except instead of opening each day's door to get a chocolate you click on each number, available on the appropriate days, and you get a video treat from a member of the congregation. Once they are open you can revisit past days. But it's for a limited time only! Check it out at noon each day between Dec 13th and 24th for a new video to become available!
The calendar will be up until Christmas!



Gifts with Vision Catalogues have arrived! But since they will be at the church buildings, you will have to use the internet to see the inspiring programs the United Church is supporting. Use Gifts with Vision to buy for those you just don't know what to get for Christmas
<https://giftswithvision.ca/>



Gifts for St. Columba House

Saint Columba House is a bustling place these days. In response to the COVID crisis, they have transformed their services to meet rising needs in the community. All food is now packaged, labelled and delivered to local homes. Over 100 hours of wellness workshops are being offered to help build community and alleviate loneliness. For families who do not have computers and printers, they are printing out and delivering needed educational resources. This holiday season they have created a relief fund to meet increasing costs due to the pandemic and their goal is \$35,000.

Since Merging Waters is not holding the events where we would traditionally give white gifts, mittens and food, we invite you to donate to St. Columba House directly. You can do this online at saintcolumbahouse.org (follow the "Donate" links) OR you can send a cheque to Saint Columba House, 2365 Grand Trunk, Montreal, QC H3K 1M8.

Even a small donation can go a long way. Let's help them create a bright Christmas!

Boutique 24 - needs **WINTER CLOTHES ONLY** – coats and boots and winter gear in good condition & clean, ONLY no other boutique items at this time. Boutique volunteers are at Adair on Wednesdays 1-3pm to receive your winter items. If that doesn't work with your schedule, call June Hudon she will meet you there: 514-713-5054

Willing Voices Wanted: We are looking for a few volunteers to announce the Community News and read scripture during our live Zoom services. Please let Christine know if you are interested, at cbmw@bell.net

Ebi Kimanani Scholarship fundraiser – Beautiful pillowcases made by Linda Toivanen: all season two pairs and 5 singles; Christmas two pairs and one single. Pairs are \$25 and singles \$13. Cheques can be made to Beaurepaire United with Caring for Kenya in the op/info line. Inquiries to Susan Cruickshank, susanc394@hotmail.com or 514-694-3382



Send a Card. Caring for Kenya, Ebi Kimanani Scholarship Cards to celebrate Christmas are available. A donation of \$10 per card

contributes to the cost of sending 16 girls and boys to Secondary School in Western Kenya. Should you simply wish to donate to the Ebi Kimanani Scholarship fund and not select cards you may do so. A donation of your choosing can be made by cheque to Beaurepaire United Church with Caring for Kenya in the memo line. This could be delivered or posted to Beaurepaire United or Union Church. All donations will be added to your church donations for this year.

Fund a Student. Avoid crowded shops, Stay safe.

Pre-ordered Cards, in an envelope with your name, could be collected from the mail-box outside my front door at 394 Church St., Beaconsfield, cnr Greenwood, just down the street from Christ Church and minutes from Beaurepaire United.

Payment by etransfer to Susan Cruickshank as Payee, use email address



susanc394@hotmail.com use **Kenya2020** as password.

OR cheque to Beaurepaire United with 'Caring for Kenya' in the memo line **OR** Cash.

If this process is difficult for you, arrangements for some deliveries could be made. For more information and to order cards **Contact** Susan at susanc394@hotmail.com or 514-694-3382

Willing Voices Wanted – We are looking for a few volunteers to announce the Community News and read scripture during our live Zoom services. Please let Christine know if you are interested, at cbmw@bell.net

Lynn Thompson is still making Christmas and other occasion cards. If you are interested drop her and email at: lynnathompson3@icloud.com She prefers cash, but no e-transfers.

Interment Lots for Sale

Union Church has two double interment lots for sale. All four lots are located side-by-side in the Garden of the Last Supper in Rideau Memorial Gardens, boulevard des Sources, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec. Each lot can accommodate either one casket and two cremated remains or no caskets and three cremated remains. Rideau Memorial Gardens sell similar lots for \$4500.00 plus taxes. Your cost to purchase from Union Church would be \$4000.00 for one lot or \$7500 for a double lot. Enquiries: David Lewis (Chair, Board of Trustees) 514-457-9139, david.lewis@mcgill.ca



The **Friday Church Café** – with a Christmas twist. Grab a cocoa and logon to chat and community Friday afternoon from **2 pm until 3:00 pm** on Zoom starting **Friday Dec 4th CHURCH CAFÉ** on the road to Bethlehem: Join Rev. Ryan on Friday afternoons as we explore our Advent journey with Christmas themed discussions.

Join us online <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81436030592>

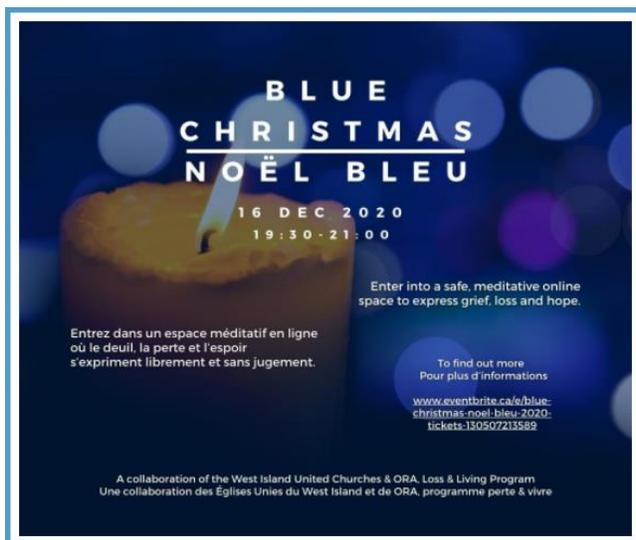
or by phone +1 438 809 7799 Canada Meeting ID: 814 3603 0592 (cont'd next page)

Dec 11th - **Does O Come All Ye Faithful get your spirit up? Love to sing Joy to The World?** Get ready to tap your toes and sing along. We're going to share our favourite Christmas Carols. Not only will we talk about them but, with the help of modern technology, we will enjoy your favourite Christmas Carols together. Warmup your vocal chords, or not, we're going to have lots of fun.



Dec 18th - **Dawn we now our Bake apparel?! It's cold outside! Let's bake something yummy inside!** From gingerbread to Pfeffernüsse, bacon-wrapped turkey to Green Bean Salad with Cherry Tomato Feta? Everyone has a favourite. This week we're going to share our favourite Christmas recipes. Type up your delicious Christmas Delicacies and trade recipes with others in the community. No baking during the gathering but if you make something in advance you can show off your goodies and share the story of how this recipe became your fav Christmas delicacy.

Zoom Practice Sessions Worship is live weekly on Zoom! Do you want to get to know this useful tool better? Would you like to get more out of Zoom? Are you interested in volunteering as a Zoom Usher during services? Come to the Zoom practice session after the Church Café each week, Friday at **3 pm**, same link as the Church Café, and get to know this worship resource with Rev. Ryan.



Blue Christmas - Join us in a safe, meditative space to express grief, loss and hope. Dec 16, 2020 7:30-9pm.

A collaboration of the West Island United Churches & ORA Loss & Living Program.

Register at Eventbrite, it is FREE and on Zoom

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/blue-christmas-noel-bleu-2020-tickets-130507213589>

Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is a community that cares Our Pastoral Care team is there to help you with your concerns.

Ivy Lewis Union Pastoral Care Chair: lewisir@hotmail.com &
Diane Nener Beaufort Pastoral Care Coordinator: dianenener@icloud.com

LOVE
is patient
is kind
it does not envy
it does not boast
it is not proud
it is not rude
it is not self seeking
it is not easily angered
it keeps no record of wrongs
never fails



A reminder: we do have the prayer circle made up of members from both Union and Beaufort and that if they do have any **prayer requests** to let me know lewisir@hotmail.com.

Spiritual Practices on our website check out Spiritual Life for links to Worship at Home – Yoga at Home – Spiritual Centering. www.mergingwaters.ca



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS WEEKLY ZOOM YOUTH GROUP (target age high school age, roughly 14-19 yrs) If you, or a young person you know of would like a place to chat, hang-out, check-in and see friends from across the regional council, send them the info for our ZOOM Youth Group, Thursdays EST.

Contact Shanna for details about how to connect: [sbernier@united-](mailto:sbernier@united-church.ca)

[church.ca](http://united-church.ca)

For the next 3 weeks the facilitators will be hosting the regular Thursday youth group on ZOOM, but are moving the time to 6:30pm. So, December, 3, 10 and 17 youth will hang out for an hour or so on ZOOM from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. They will **not** host Youth Group December 24th or 31st. If a teen or young adult in your entourage is interested, but has never come before this would be a great time to try it!

Thursday youth group ZOOM room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84246314797>



On Friday December 11 we are hosting a special Games Night from 6:30 – 8:00pm EST for youth aged 10-15. Games Night ZOOM room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81184397272>

Online Children's Churches – Ongoing

✚✚ Merging Waters has all of our members at heart, at this time as all times. As part of a wider community we are sharing our worships, programs, time, and love with the world. Other congregations and parts of the church are too.



To help faith communities and families continue to support the spiritual lives of our children during the COVID-19 pandemic, Shanna Bernier, the Nakonha:ka Regional Council Program Support Minister for Youth and Young Adults, is offering a weekly online children's church service on Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sundays. Videos of all past services are available on the Nakonha:ka Regional Council website: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/programs/youth-young-adult/>

To join in the Facebook Live Children's Church, go to Shanna's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/shanna.bernier> 9am Sundays. Then you can all join us for the Online Worship at Merging Waters.



E-ssentials

E-ssentials e-newsletter offers all the "essential" news from The United Church of Canada, including updates on events, campaigns, actions, new resources, and more from the General Council Office and beyond! Published twice each month, with occasional special issues. Aug 18th issue.

<https://mailchi.mp/united-church/es200818?e=9455c8855f>



CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
NAKONHA:KA
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Nakonha:ka News – This is an online publication that comes to us twice a month from the Regional Council (there is no more Presbytery or Conference). Usually printed and posted at both pastoral charges. Sign up to have it send to you by email. Here is the link:

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/newsletter/>

A brand new very interesting, issue Dec 9th.

<https://mailchi.mp/43cf497c4cbe/nouvelles-nakonhaka-news-2020-12-09-pc?e=0fd95ba441>



Affirm/S'affirmer
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble – is an online publication that comes to us quarterly. Current news letter arrived Oct 27th <https://mailchi.mp/9107ea9464b9/your-affirm-united-enewsletter-4465650?e=80e28d0cfb>

Want to start your day with prayer? Check out Rev Darryl Macdonald's **Celtic Meditations** on the Roxboro United Church Facebook weekday mornings at 9 am.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/roxborounited>

