



Sunday Morning Worship
December 20th, 2020

Advent 4 – Love

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.

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

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

CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW

We Are A Rainbow

(verse 1 & chorus)

**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.**

MUSICAL CENTERING

Sleep, My Love

from J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio
piano version arranged by Michael Woytiuk



SIGNS OF LOVE

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

**Soon we will welcome
the beautiful and radical love of God
as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

We embrace our identity as God's beloved children
and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

**In our homes and in our church, we offer hospitality,
welcoming those we don't know,
those who are in need,
and those who are different from us.**

We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy,
the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

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

We light the candle of Love

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 Savior is born. R**

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart. R**



PRAYER OF APPROACH

God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore those in need, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

God Doesn't Wait

MUSICAL REFLECTION

O There Was A Little Baby
Traditional
Vicky Moulton vocals, Keith Whittal, guitars

SHARING OUR STORIES

Inspired In Love



There was a child in Galilee
 who wandered wild along the sea.
 A holy child, alone was she,
 and they called her Dreaming Mary.
 And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour;
 she dreamed of justice for the poor.
 She dreamed that kings oppressed no more
 when she dreamed, that Dreaming Mary.

One holy day an angel came
 with voice of wind and eyes of flame.
 He promised blessed would be her name
 when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.
 Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour.
 She spoke of justice for the poor.
 She spoke that kings oppressed no more
 when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.

And did she dream about a son?
 And did he speak, the angel one?
 We only know God's will was done
 in the son of Dreaming Mary.
 Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour.
 She taught him justice for the poor.
 She taught that kings oppressed no more
 when she taught,

Then Jesus grew in Galilee,
 they wandered wild along the sea.
 Now he calls to you and me
 to dream with Dreaming Mary.
 And we dream, rejoicing in our saviour.
 We dream of justice for the poor.
 We dream that kings oppress no more
 as we dream with Dreaming Mary.

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

D'où Viens-Tu, Bergère?
 Traditional, arranged by Pierre Gallant



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of love and joy, God of peace and hope, we are so grateful for these Advent gifts, which bring comfort and courage even in the most challenging times. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and community. Bless them with your grace so that they will bring love to those who need it so much this year. Bless our lives, too, so that we shine with your love, blessing others in the name of Jesus, our friend, inspiration, brother, and Saviour. 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.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN AND JOY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our ..., in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.



**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Greensleeves/Ding Dong Merrily on High

arranged by Michael Woytiuk
Christine Bryce, Soprano and alto recorders
Jane Weber, Soprano recorder
Michael Woytiuk, tenor recorder and sleighbells

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

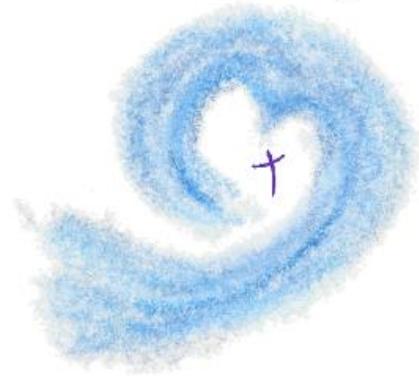
BEACONSFIELD, QUE.

Michael Woytiuk; Ministry of Music

Rev. Ryan Fea, Ordained Minister
ryanfea.mergingwaters@gmail.com

Susan Smith, Office Administrator
mergingwaters@bellnet.ca (514) 445-2618

**Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge**



*Welcome Grace Service Love
Community*

www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

Dec 20th.	Advent 4 Love
Dec 24th.	Christmas Eve 8 pm Communion Service Nativity By Candle Light
Dec 27th.	First Sunday after Christmas – Shared Ecumenical Worship
Jan 3rd.	Epiphany
Jan 10th.	Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Jan 17th.	Second Sunday After Epiphany

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Here is a photo of the **Merging Waters Christmas Elves** in action. They made 31 deliveries and drove 107 kms. Started at 9:00 and finished just after 2:00. They say: I think we enjoyed ourselves just as much as the recipients! Someone even offered to pay us for their concert! We think we brought some joy and good cheer as we wound our way through the day.

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!

<http://mergingwaters.ca/twelve-days-before-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/>

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

Suitcases for Africa - Still looking for just the right gift for someone special on your list? May I suggest checking out the Suitcases for Africa Facebook page or Suitcases for Africa Facebook Market Page. Our website: suitcasesforafrica.com has a link for some great indoor plants that are still available. The web site also highlights our Gift Card Campaign. Below are just a few of many, many gift ideas.

Please call Wendy Buchanan for information: 514-992-5500.



Kisii Angels
Nativity



Leather animal key chains



Carved



Kazuri keychains



Carved Masks



Cyclist tree ornaments

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.

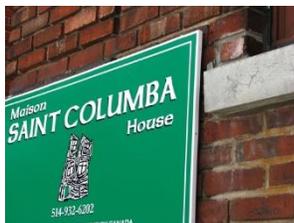
Payment by etransfer to Susan Cruickshank as Payee, use email address

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

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!

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** – Will return in the New Year. Grab a cocoa and logon to chat and community Friday afternoons **2 pm until 3 pm** on Zoom starting **Friday Jan 8th CHURCH CAFÉ** on the road to Bethlehem. Join Rev. Ryan on Friday afternoons as we explore our Advent journey with Christmas themed discussions.

Join in January online <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83863371519> or by phone +1 438 809 7799 Canada Meeting ID: 838 6337 1519

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.



Zoom Café and Practice Sessions on hiatus Dec 25th 2020 and Jan 1st 2021

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

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

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-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>

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.

Your church needs you - Merging Waters supports the community and makes a difference in the lives of others. We need your support to keep our mission going:

If you would like to get on Pre-Authorised Remittance [download the PAR Form](#), print and send it in with a void cheque to either church address – you can also send a cheque or post-dated cheques:

Union Church
24 Maple
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
Qc, H9X 2E6

Beaurepaire United
25 Avenue Fieldfare
Beaconsfield,
QC H9W 4W4

Mail is picked-up regularly

If you are already on PAR and would like to increase your monthly offering to support the ongoing mission and work of the church please email par@united-church.ca providing them your name and congregation and how much you would like to increase your monthly amount.

Another way to support our churches is through CanadaHelps, it is online, it is secure, you get a tax receipt from them and you are anonymous.

For Union Church: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/union-church-ste-anne-de-belleuve/>

For Beaurepaire United Church: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/beaurepaire-united-church/>



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. Here is the link:

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

available in English and French versions. 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-ensemble-newsletter-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>

