



Sunday Morning Worship
December 6th, 2020

Advent 2 – Peace

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

Lighting of the Rainbow Candle

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.**

**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.**

Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

MUSICAL CENTERING

Sheep May Safely Graze

Bach

SIGNS OF PEACE

In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace

**Jesus Christ, born the Prince of Peace,
calls our community to justice and
leads us in the way of peace.**

We call one another to honesty and humility
and respond to each other with abundant grace and forgiveness.

Our community values relationships.

**We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree,
and strive to glorify God in everything we do.**

Our community values relationships.

We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree,
and strive to glorify God in everything we do.

Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.

We light the candles of Peace

HYMN VOICES UNITED 7

Hope Is A Star

(verses 1&2)

**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**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**God of all people and all nations, you break through the cynicism of our world
and lead us like a gentle shepherd. You come to comfort us, Divine Spirit,
through a message of hope that never ends. A message of the love that will never
let us go. Open our eyes to see the signs of your coming kingdom and inspire us
to participate in all you are doing in Jesus' name. Amen.**



SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover The Earth
from Handel's Messiah, Murdoch MacFarlane, bass

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



APPLICATION FOR TODAY

A Piece Of Peace

SHARING OUR STORIES

Inspired In Peace

HYMN VOICES UNITED 882

Isaiah 40 (Prepare The Way)

**Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.**

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

**Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.**

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion,
your Saviour's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing.**

O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

OFFERING

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

Invitation to White Gifts

*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

Turning To Peace
words and music by Paul Schwartz
sung by Spare Parts



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of promise, we bring you our gifts in Jesus' name, for we know his peace through forgiveness and faithfulness. Receive our offering and bless our gifts and our lives. Help us share the peace you offer us with our neighbours throughout the world you love. 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 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**



**When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.**

**When fear no longer guides
our steps and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.**

**When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole
world round, for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.**

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Darkness To Light
by Pat Mayberry and Pierre Gallant

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

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**Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge**



*Welcome Grace Service Love
Community*

www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

Dec 6th.	Advent 2 Peace
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

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 Beaufort United with Caring for Kenya in the op/info line. Inquiries to Susan Cruickshank, 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!

Send a Card, Fund a Student. Avoid crowded shops, Stay safe.

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.

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 Beaufort United.

Payment by e-transfer to Susan Cruickshank as Payee, use email address susanc394@hotmail.com use **Kenya2020** as password.

OR cheque to Beaufort 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

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>

City of Ste-Annes Food drive On December 6th, 2020 (today) starting at 12 p.m., volunteers from municipal services and from the community will cover all the streets of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue to collect donations.

Baie d'Urfé Toy and Food drive - Sunday, December 17 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
20,609 Lakeshore, Baie-D'Urfé - Please donate unwrapped new toys or gift cards or contribute to the West Island Food banks. Your donation will be delivered for Christmas to the **On Rock Community Services!** An initiative from the Citizen's Association!

First reminder – Your **pledges for Stewardship** are due **December 15th**.



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

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/>

The Twelve Days Before Christmas Starting December 13th on the Merging Waters Pastoral Charge website, we're spreading the Christmas cheer - you will find a real treat for Advent and Christmas. With twelve days of videos full of song and story, craft and art shared by members of the Merging Waters community in our journey to the nativity we will be making the official unveiling next Sunday.

