



Merging Waters Pastoral Charge

~ Christmas Eve ~ By Story, Song, and Candlelight

Communion Service

Live on Zoom

Thursday December 24, 2020

7:45 pm Zoom Opens

8 pm Worship Begins

WELCOME

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome in the Merging Waters family. Feel free to make use of the activities area where children, with parental permission, may draw or play, or take an activity back to the pew.

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.

MUSICAL CENTERING

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arrangement John Schmidt, Steven Sharp Nelson

Soloist: Christine Bryce (recorder)

Dmitry Babich (cello)

PRAYER

O Spirit of Life, the shepherds came, the wise ones came, and this evening we come into community to welcome the Christ Child. Prepare us, uplift us, enliven us, and open us to the glory and surprise of this event. Inspire us to choose renewal as each year hope, joy, peace, and love are born anew in celebrating Jesus' birth. Amen.



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 STORY OF THE NATIVITY

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2 & 6

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

CAROL VOICES UNITED 69

Away In A Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.



In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL VOICES UNITED 50

Il Est Né

Refrain

**Il es né le divin Enfant jouez, hautbois, résonnez,
musette. Il es né le divin Enfant;
chantons tous son avènement.**

**Depuis plus de quatre milles ans,
nous le promettaient les prophètes.
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,
nous attendions cet heureux temps! R**

**Ah! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant!
Ah! Que ses grâces sont parfaites!
Ah! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant!
Qu'il est doux, ce divin Enfant! R**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"**



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!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:15-19

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

**So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.**

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

CAROL VOICES UNITED 75

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
A saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and his shall be the sign

"The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
and in a manger laid."



LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Story Of Four Candles

The Christ candle is lit during the Story (video will be shared)

Divine Love has come to Earth.

The call of Christ begins in a baby's cry. Listen and respond.

We share the light of the Christ candle.

May it light the way.

All are invited to light a candle at home if safe to do so

OFFERING

We offer our prayer, 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

The Rumba Drumma

Written by Katherine Davis (1941)

arranged by Michael Woytiuk

Pierre Gallant and Michael Woytiuk, pianos

SONG OF DEDICATION VOICES UNITED 55

In The Bleak Midwinter v. 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 one, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to The Great Spirit.

Let us give thanks to the Lover of the Universe.

It is right to give thanks and praise to the Holy One.

God of all times and places, we gather at your table of grace, wherever we are, to recall your vision of hope for all people and for your world Come to us, life-giving Spirit. Bless us, these gifts, and what we do here, so that we might sing your song of love for your people and for your world.

PARTAKING IN THE ELEMENTS

The Bread of Life

The Cup of a New Covenant

The gifts of God for the people of God

Thanks Be To God

As you partake in the bread and cup let their mingling within you be a reminder of the unity of humanity with Divinity in the grace we find in Christmas. Unity of Body and Soul.



MUSICAL REFLECTION

O Holy Night

Wendy Hamel Vocals; Michael Woytiuk piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of shepherds and kings, you gather us by the light of the star of promise. You lead us not only to hope for the future, but to trust in your presence and renewal of life in every time and place. Guide us this night, by the light of that same star. Lead us to the mangers of this world, where uncertainty is met with the renewal life and the transformation of this world is most deeply felt in love, one with another. Be with us on this most wondrous of nights, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

CAROL VOICES UNITED 67

Silent Night

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Rejoice!

words by Pat Mayberry, Speaker Jeremy Lewis

Jesu Yabula – Allelulia

music Pierre Gallant

'Gift of Light' Choir

Thank you for joining us

Merry Christmas!



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



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**Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge**



*Welcome Grace Service Love
Community*

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

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**

WAYS TO GIVE

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
ornaments



Carved Masks



Cyclist tree

Reminder: donations given before Tuesday Dec 29th are eligible for tax receipts for the 2020 tax period. This applies to the Ebi Kimanani Scholarship (Cards for Kenya) and for donations to support the churches.

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

Merging Waters supports the community while making 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	Beaurepaire United
24 Maple	25 Avenue Fieldfare
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue	Beaconsfield,
Qc, H9X 2E6	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-bellevue/>

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

You can also support the United Church **Mission and Service Fund** – See your generosity in more global action on the new website [Stories of Our Mission](#) with articles and videos that show how our connections around the world in relationships of service through M&S make a real difference in people's lives.