

Sunday Morning Worship
January 24th, 2021



The Journey The Third Sunday After Epiphany

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

Open Door

Music and Words by Michael Woytiuk
Kerry-Anne Kutz, Soprano

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.**



SPIRITUAL FOCUS

God called Jonah

but he ran away and was swallowed by a whale.

Jesus called four fishers.

They followed and became fishers of people.

Jesus calls 'fishers' today.

**We hear and we follow
casting our lives for love.**

HYMN VOICES UNTED 563

Jesus You Have Come to the Lakeshore

**Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.**

[Refrain]

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

**You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
--- you will find there my nets and labour. R**

**You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving. R**

**You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me. R**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**God of life and abundant living;
you call people of all ages and gender identities
into a living relationship.
You help us respond to the deep urging of the Spirit
and become your people,
casting our lives upon the waters of humanity.
May our empty striving give way to fulfilling practice.
And our restless souls find rest in you. Amen.**



One day the Lord spoke to Jonah. God said,

**"Go to Nineveh, that great city, and speak out against it;
I am aware of how wicked its people are."**

Jonah, however, set out in the opposite direction in order to get away from God.

He went to Joppa, where he found a ship about to go to Spain.

He paid his fare and went aboard with the crew to sail to Spain, where he would be away from God.

But God sent a strong wind on the sea, and the storm was so violent that the ship was in danger of breaking up. The sailors were terrified and cried out for help, each one to his own god. Then, in order to lessen the danger, they threw the cargo overboard. The sailors said to each other,

**"Let's draw lots and find out who is to blame
for getting us into this danger."**

They did so, and Jonah's name was drawn. So they said to him,

**"Now then, tell us! Who is to blame for this?
What are you doing here? What country do you come from?
What is your nationality?"**

"I am a Hebrew," Jonah answered.

"I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made land and sea."

Jonah went on to tell them that he was running away from God.

The sailors were terrified, and said to him,

"That was an awful thing to do!"

Then they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and it calmed down at once.

HYMN VOICES UNITED 356

Seek Ye First the Kingdom

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door
shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

**We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds
from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**



At the Lord's command a large fish swallowed Jonah, and he was inside the fish for three days and three nights. From deep inside the fish Jonah prayed to God:

**"In my distress, O Lord, I call to you.
From deep in the world of the dead I cry for help.
Those who worship worthless idols have abandoned their loyalty to you, but I will sing praises to you... and do what I have promised.
Salvation comes from God!"**

Then God ordered the fish to spit Jonah up on the beach, and it did.

Once, again God spoke to Jonah. God said,

**"Go to Nineveh, that great city,
and proclaim to the people
the message I have given you."**

So Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to walk through it. Jonah started through the city, and after walking a whole day, he proclaimed,

"In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!"

The people of Nineveh believed God's message. So they decided that everyone should fast, and all the people, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth to show that they had repented.

God saw what they did; God saw that they had given up their wicked behaviour.

So God changed God's mind and did not punish them as God had said God would.

Jonah was very unhappy about this and became angry.

So he prayed,

**"God, didn't I say before I left home
that this is just what you would do?
That's why I did my best to run away to Spain!
I knew that you are a loving and merciful God,
always patient, always kind,
and always ready to change your mind and not punish.
Now then, let me die. I am better off dead than alive."**

GOD said, "What do you have to be angry about?"

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

The Journey



**When pain of the world surrounds us
with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us
with false hopes everywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning
and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus
and let God's healing flow through us.**

**We see with fear and trembling
our aching world in need,
confessing to each other
our wastefulness and greed.
May we with steadfast caring
the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus
and let God's justice flow through us.**

**The church is a holy vessel
the living waters fill
to nourish all its people,
God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with humble courage
be open to God's will.
We are called to follow Jesus
and let God's Spirit flow through us.**

**We praise you for our journey
and your abundant grace,
your saving word that guided
a struggling human race.
O God, with all creation,
your future we embrace.
We are called to follow Jesus
and let God's changes flow through us.**



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

Be Not Afraid

Music and Words by John Talbot
Keith Whittall, Guitar and lead Vocal

CHORAL DEDICATION VOICES UNITED 542

We Give You But Your Own

**We give you but your own,
What e'er the gift may be.
All that we have is yours alone,
We give it gratefully.**

INVITATION TO PRAYER VOICES UNITED 374 Come And Find The Quiet Centre

**Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead.
Find the room for hope to entre, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we might see
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.**

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our, in heaven,

**Holy is 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**



**As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.**

**We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.**

**As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

The Old Irish Blessing
music by Denes Agay
Wendy Hamel. Soprano

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

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&

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**Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge**



*Welcome Grace Service Love
Community*

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

Jan 24th.	Third Sunday After Epiphany
Jan 31st.	Shared West Island Worship Service 9:45 am
Feb 7th.	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – Rev. Wendy Evans visiting Preacher
Feb 14th.	Transfiguration Sunday – Rev. Wendy Evans visiting Preacher
Feb 17th.	Ash Wednesday Service – Of Clay and Ash 2pm
Feb 21st.	First Sunday of Lent
Feb 28th.	Second Sunday of Lent

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

The Secret Lives of House Plants – Come and join four plant lovers (Bonnie, Helen, Christine & Kathie) as they talk about house plants that grow well under a variety of conditions. Light, watering, fertilizing, pests and taking cuttings will be discussed. Bring your questions and/or your favourite plants. All kinds of thumbs invited! Tues. Feb 2nd, 7pm Zoom details in the mid-week message and on the website.

Greetings To/From Our Syrian Family - COVID Style!

Wendy Buchanan, Libby Monaco and Susan Hawker share with us:

“We have not been able to visit the Syrian family that the Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition co-sponsored since the pandemic arrived. As the holiday season approached, the SRSC committee members decided that we should send something to Bilal and Farah and their children, and to our co-sponsors Salman and Basma to let them know we are thinking of them, and wishing them joy and good health.

We arranged for a beautiful Cyclamen plant to be delivered to each family, and we were delighted to receive a response” – which can be read in the mid-week message.

ORA Loss & Living Program – has an upcoming series of workshops

Jan 25th – Roam’s Kitchen Talk – cooking for Love & Comfort (6 sessions)

Feb 3rd – Meditation for Grief and Loss 2-4:30pm

more...

Please go to their Facebook page for more details: <https://www.facebook.com/oralossandliving/>

Family Life Centre – Free short online workshops

Join a free workshop on Zoom, **Wednesdays 1:30-2:15 pm**

Jan 27 Rehoming Your Treasures – how to sell or give away things you’ve decluttered

Feb 10 Alzheimer Overview

All are welcome. Register at <http://signupschedule.com/familylifecentre>

Church Café – **Join us for a special topic** discussion on **Friday Jan 29th at 2 pm** during the Church Café when we will explore the question as a community and individuals of "**Who Are We?**" the upcoming theme of our shared worship with West Island UCC community. Come and share your impressions and insights as we further our discussions of how we identify as a people of faith, who we are, who we're called to be, what we're called to do and how we will get from where we are to where we are called to be.

Join us weekly on ZOOM online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83863371519>

or by phone: +1 438 809 7799 Canada Meeting ID: 838 6337 1519