



Merging Waters Pastoral Charge
Sunday Morning Worship
National Affirming Sunday:
What's In Your PIE?
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14th, 2021

WELCOME/BIENVENUE

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome.

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./

Toutes et tous sont bienvenus, peu importe l'âge, l'identité ou les conditions de vie.

Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans l'amour et la communauté pour louer Dieu ensemble. Notre amour n'est jamais limité par la distance.

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

Prelude (oboe and piano)

by Pierre Gallant
Oboe: Christine Bryce
Piano: Pierre Gallant

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

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

CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE FOR PIE DAY 2021

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

We gather together, on this National Affirming Sunday, celebrating the all-inclusive love of God—

Worshipping our Maker, who delights in diversity;

Worshipping the Lover, who in Jesus reached out and accepted and embraced everyone, despite all social, class, ethnic and spiritual barriers.

Worshipping the Keeper, the Spirit who continues to open our hearts and minds to find healing and unity with one another and the world.

Thanks be to God!



Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. R**

**Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. R**

**May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. R**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Timeless God, your radical message of inclusion is countercultural. You promise us welcome and belonging if we dare to open our hearts to discover siblings in Christ in each other. May the cry for justice, dignity, and equality be the song we each sing harmoniously. Guide our lives with the power of your all-encompassing love. In the name of the liberating Christ, we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL APPROACH MORE VOICES 154

Deep In Our Hearts (verse 2)

**Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
Justice and peace in harmony.**



From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”

Then the HOLY ONE sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the DIVINE and against you; pray to the SOURCE OF HEALING LOVE to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And GOD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”

So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Look to Healing



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

On The Willows

Words and Music: John-Michael Tebelak, Stephen Schwartz
text based on Psalm 137 'By the rivers of Babylon...'
Singers: Bryson Davis, with Heather Lewis and Patti Murphy

CHORAL DEDICATION MORE VOICES 115

Behold, Behold I Make All Things New v. 1

**Behold, behold,
I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold,
I make all things new,
My promise is true, for I am Christ the way.**

PRAYERS OF CONCERN AND JOY

ALTERNATE PARAPHRASE OF THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Voices United 916

**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen.**



COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN VOICES UNITED 633

Bless Now, O God, The Journey

Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

Thank you to for joining us today



**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.

Mar 14th.	4 th Week of Lent – God’s Healing Love – United Church PIE Day
Mar 21st.	5 th Week of Lent – Write Your Love Upon Our Hearts
Mar 28th.	6 th Week of Lent – Palm Sunday
April 1st.	Maundy Thursday (evening gathering)
April 2nd.	Good Friday Service (12 pm)
April 4th.	Easter 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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual General Meetings AGMs - All members and adherents are encouraged to come.

-Beaurepaire United Church is March 14 at 1pm.

-Merging Waters Pastoral Charge is March 21 at 1pm.

Festival de la Voix ONLINE

From February 28 to March 14 online: The Messiah by G. F. Handel

From March 20 to April 3 online: The Best of Broadway - A SING-ALONG! Sing some of your favourite Broadway hits with vocalists **Laura Coulter-Low** and **Erin Berger** and pianist **Michael Woytiuk**, all from the comfort of your favourite armchair!

Sunday, March 28 at 3:00 p.m. live streaming: **Rob Lutes** singing and playing blues. **Dr. Floyd Ricketts** and soprano, **Alexandra Asher**, performing spirituals and well-known standards.

Also **three online workshops** to which you're invited to participate or to observe.

From April 10 to April 24 online: *Rendez-vous* with **QUARTOM male vocal quartet**

Information can be found on our website www.festivaldelavoix.com recommended donation

Jane Cowell brings us a **Long-Term Care petition** - Sign by Tuesday March 16 - This petition to the Quebec Government is being sponsored by the Provincial Council of Women Quebec and the Quebec Council of University Women's Clubs. Details in the MWMWM

Susan Hawker brings our attention to **Two online petitions** to preserve two local forests: Save Fairview Forest campaign; Boisé des Chênes blancs (White Oak Woods) Ile Perrot. Details in the MWMWM

Also, mark the date: **March 27**, is the day for **Earth Hour at 8:30pm**, turn off your lights for an hour to confront climate crisis.

Lynn Thompson has been hard at work and has a whole new selection of her imaginative and lovely **handmade cards**, call her or drop her an email.

West Island Citizens Advocacy (WICA) has a series of free courses available online worth having a look at.