



Merging Waters Pastoral Charge
Sunday Morning Worship

God Is Love

5th Sunday Of Easter
May 2nd, 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

Love Asks for Nothing
text by Rumi
music by Michael Woytiuk

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

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

CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW

HYMN OF CELEBRATION

We Are A Rainbow *(verse 3)*

**We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
We are peace in a world that's torn apart,
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart.**

**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



SPIRITUAL FOCUS

We come to this place where God pours out love on us.

We join our voices in praise, as our fears are left behind.

We gather with these people, those who seek to follow Jesus

so we might walk the paths of service hand in hand.

We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,

so that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.

HYMN 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 enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

We come, Spirit of Love, seeking reassurance that we are accepted and encouraged. May your Word, God, remind us that your nature is love which calls us to love ourselves, love others, love this world as you have loved us from the beginning. Call to us, Holy One in All, by the scriptures to continue to seek how to serve with humility, to think as community, and to act with authenticity in love. Amen.



MUSICAL APPROACH VOICES UNITED 202/203

O Breath of Life/Viens, Créateur, emplis nos âmes

O Breath of love, come breathe within us, En nos esprits met ta lumière;
renewing thought and will and heart; en nos cœurs verse ton amour;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us, tu es la source inépuisable
revive your church in every part. de la vraie vie, du vrai bonheur

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but the Divine loved us and sent this Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and Holy love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in The Divine and the Divine in us, because God has given us of the Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Creator has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as the Divine is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because The Source of Love in the Universe first loved us.

Those who say, "I love God," and hate their siblings in humanity, are liars; for those who do not love another whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

The commandment we have from the Creator is this: those who love God must love the others living in this world also.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Bearing the Fruit of Love

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

My Brother, My Sister

Words by Kahlil Gibran

Music by Pierre Gallant

Images by Kahlil Gibran

CHORAL DEDICATION MORE VOICES 30

It's A Song Of Praise For The Maker

(verse 3 & refrain)

**It's a hymn of love to the lover, the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the lover, the summer breeze joins the song,
And by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts

We lift up our hearts to the source of all life.

We lift our thanks and praise

**It is right to lift up our thanksgiving to
the Liveliness of All Life!**

We lift up our thanks loving Creator for inspiring our brother Jesus, your beloved child,
to show us a path of life eternal.

We lift our thanks to you Voice of Novelty in the Universe.

In sharing the gifts of the Word, the blessing of creation, and the passionate embrace of
the Spirit you have shown us a love that has no end. A love we may become in how we
live together.

We live our lives to reveal your love to the world, Great Lover of all life!

With gratitude and awe we lift our song:

Holy Mystery, Holy Life Bringer, Holy Source of Love!

**Your inspiration shakes assumptions, brings down empires of oppression,
and changes the world.**

Changes lives.

Jesus lived with the poor, stood up against oppression, lived and died and lived again -
giving us hope. Giving us the mystery.



PRAYERS OF CONCERN AND JOY

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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

On the night before Jesus was betrayed by the powers of this world - by greed and fear, by selfish short-sightedness - he gathered with his friends, women and men, children and adults, to share a meal, a meal that was integral to their faith.

Living out our faith we are drawn to join Jesus in this meal.

At supper Jesus took the bread and blessed it. He broke it and passed it to his friends. It was the bread of life, his life. Faithful to God's dream for us all he told them "I lived a life in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, telling truth to power. For a life truly lived, fed by the Spirit, one needs to stand for love and equality no matter the cost. Here is life - living with integrity, steadfast to God's love. My death shows you how to truly live. Each time you eat remember I have shown you how to have a life truly lived."

A life lived faithfully with integrity is the bread of life!

After the meal Jesus took the cup, and as was the Jewish custom, said the blessing, he took the cup and passed it to his friends. He reminded them that in a life truly lived, authentic to his beliefs, he offered hope of a new covenant with our Creator. Jesus said "Live out a full commitment to your faith and the world will find hope in turning and returning to right relationship with one another and with God, the Lover of All the Universe. Each time you drink remember I have shown you how to be hope for the world."

Authentic commitment to love and justice is the cup of hope!

Be present, and live, Holy Spirit in these gifts and in us, so that we, being blessed by your presence, may bring life to the world by living with integrity, and *be* the hope we seek in the world by commitment to our authentic faith in you.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, by the unity of the Holy Spirit, we
lift our thanksgiving to share life and hope with the world through you
Great Spirit of Love.
Amen**



Jesus Christ the Bread of Life.
Jesus Christ the Cup of Hope.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

By the blessing we have received, O Spirit of Life, may we be a blessing that brings life to the world. With the hope we have found in you, God whose nature is love, may we offer hope of right relationship to all. May we live faithful lives showing our authenticity and commitment by our actions. Amen.

HYMN VOICES UNITED 282

Long Before The Night

**Long before the night was born from darkness
Long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire
Long before she wrapped her scarlet arms around the hills
there was a love this ancient love was born**

**Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside
Long before a wing unfolded to wind
Long before she wrapped her long blue arm around the sea
there was a love this ancient love was born**

**Long before a chain was forged from the hillside
Long before a voice uttered freedom's cry
Long before she wrapped her bleeding arms around a child
there was a love this ancient love was born**

**Long before the name of God was spoken
Long before a cross was nailed from a tree
Long before she laid her arm of colours 'cross the sky
there was a love this ancient love was born**

**Wakeful are our nights and slumbers our morning
Stubborn is the grass sowing green wounded hills
As we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held
this ancient love this aching love rolls on**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Jesus Loves Me
tune by William Bradbury
4 hand piano arrangement by Michael Woytiuk

~ 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.

- May 2nd.** Fifth Sunday of Easter – Communion Sunday – God Is Love
May 9th. Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day/Christian Family Sunday
May 16th. Seventh Sunday of Easter – Ascension Sunday
May 23rd. Pentecost
May 30th. Combined Worship with West Island United Churches
hosted by Cedar Park United Church on Facebook Live
link will be provided at www.mergingwaters.ca/worship-online

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

Sauvons la Forêt Fairview/Save Fairview Forest is trying to protect the forest to the west of the Fairview Shopping Centre. If you haven't yet done so, we invite you to join the over 25,750 that have already signed the online petition. This petition is spearheaded by that wonderfully committed Geneviève Lussier, daughter of our own Susan Hawker, both of whom spoke to us last week for the Earth Day Service.

St-John's United, in Pointe-Claire has a food bank, you can drop-off on Wednesdays 11-noon or Wendy & Richard Buchanan have kindly offered to pick-up and drop-off for you.

Union Church's Annual Plant Sale is confirmed, starting May 1st. Helen Fyles will operate the sale as she did last year with selection of plants on a Facebook page, send her an email, pick-up at her front lawn.

Lakeshore Association of Artists (LAA) and NOVA West Island are holding an online exhibition of works, a fundraiser for NOVA. 50 artists taking part, running May 1st-31st.

Beautiful **handmade cards** by Lynn Thompson are on offer. Proceeds to Union church.

West Island Cancer Wellness Centre WICWC – is hiring two (2) summer students, they must be enrolled in Cégep or University. Deadline to apply is **May 7th**. The link is in the mid-week message for the job descriptions

Details about these happenings and more in the Mid-Week message.
Which you can find on our website www.mergingwaters.ca click on the Stay Up-to-Date tab then on Mid-Week Message.