



**Merging Waters Pastoral Charge
Sunday Morning Worship**

Sunday of Love

December 19th, 2021
4th Sunday of Advent
Rev. Ryan Fea presiding
Michael Woytiuk Ministry of Music

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 text for congregational response – please note, as we will be engaging gently in responsive liturgy and singing all are asked to remain seated and masked, keeping bubbles 2 meters apart during the service.

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We acknowledge that the lands our churches and many of our homes sit on have been stewarded by the first peoples of Turtle Island, among them the Kanien'kehá:ka, "Mohawk" peoples, as well as nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the neighbouring Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabeg, and Abenaki peoples. We commit ourselves as a faith community to the multi-generational work of reconciliation, the pursuit of true justice and flourishing well-being for all peoples who now call Canada home.

MUSICAL CENTERING

Gesu Bambino

By Pietro A. Yon
sung by Wendy Hamel

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

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

CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Light for the shadows:

may it show us the way.

A flame of love:

may our hearts be warmed.

We light the Advent candle of Love

A beacon of possibility:

**may there be light and Love in our living
as we prepare to welcome Jesus.**



SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN MORE VOICES 220

Hope Shines As The Solitary Star *[Adapted]*

(x3)

**Love shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.**

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You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
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**Love shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
We at Merging Waters mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Caring God, as we rush to prepare our homes and our trees, slow us down and prepare our hearts. When we shut you out with worry and fear, renew our trust and prepare our hearts. If we are distracted by the clamour of the world, soothe our minds and prepare our hearts. In this time of worship, let the warmth of your kindness prepare our hearts to receive your word. Let the comfort of your healing prepare our hearts to feel your peace. Let the joy of your love prepare our hearts to worship your holy name. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Good King Wenceslas

sung by Raphael Verelst

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

**“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.**

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

**And blessed is she who believed that there would be a
fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”**

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
**for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is God's name.**

The mercy of the Divine is for those who fear God
from generation to generation.

**God's arm shows the strength of the Divine;
has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
Has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**

Has helped God's servant Israel,
in remembrance of Divine mercy,
according to the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

There was a child in Galilee
 who wandered wild along the sea.
 A holy child, alone was she,
 and they called her Dreaming Mary.
 And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour;
 she dreamed of justice for the poor.
 She dreamed that kings oppressed no more
 when she dreamed, that Dreaming Mary.

One holy day an angel came
 with voice of wind and eyes of flame.
 He promised blessed would be her name
 when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.
 Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour.
 She spoke of justice for the poor.
 She spoke that kings oppressed no more
 when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.

And did she dream about a son?
 And did he speak, the angel one?
 We only know God's will was done
 in the son of Dreaming Mary.
 Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour.
 She taught him justice for the poor.
 She taught that kings oppressed no more
 when she taught, that Dreaming Mary.

Then Jesus grew in Galilee,
 they wandered wild along the sea.
 Now he calls to you and me
 to dream with Dreaming Mary.
 And we dream, rejoicing in our saviour.
 We dream of justice for the poor.
 We dream that kings oppress no more
 as we dream with Dreaming Mary.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Love's Dream

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Grounded in 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

Love Is Christmas

By Sara Bareilles
 sung by Patti Murphy and Bonnie Norris



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In these days of waiting, O God, as Mary grew Jesus in her womb, so grow in us a spirit of generosity. Bring to birth within us a passion for justice and peace. As we share these gifts, which you have entrusted to us, so may your dream for the world come closer to fulfillment. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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**

HYMN MORE VOICES 221

I Am Walking A Path of Love (x3)

**I am walking a path of love, (x3)
lead me home, lead me home.**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

MUSICAL SENDING

Gamble/Leon Huff; arrangement inspired by Keb' Mo' version 2001

Love Train

Original from 1970s Motown by Kenneth

lead vocal Christine Bryce

~ Thank you for joining us today ~



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

UNION CHURCH



**STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUE.
« An Affirming Congregation »**

&

**BEAUREPAIRE UNITED CHURCH
BEACONSFIELD, QUE.**

Michael Woytiuk; Ministry of Music

**Rev. Ryan Fea, Ordained Minister
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**Susan Smith, Office Administrator
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**Merging Waters
Pastoral Charge**



*Welcome Grace Service Love
Community*

www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Dec 19th. | Advent 4 – Love Sunday |
| Dec 24th. | Christmas Eve – Family Candlelight Service 8 pm (online) |
| Dec 26th. | Cocoa and Carols Service – First Sunday After Christmas (online) |
| Jan 2nd. | 2 nd Sunday After Christmas Ecumenical shared worship (online) |

Unless otherwise indicated all services are held
in person (24 Maple, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue) and live-streamed
Please consult the website and weekly announcements for details and links

www.mergingwaters.ca/Worship-online
Download the Zoom App at zoom.us/download

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pay It Forward

Canadians are receiving COVID vaccines, people in many other parts of the world have no way to get them.

Your gift of 25\$ will provide a complete COVID-19 vaccination to one person in a country where vaccines are in short supply. 25\$ to save a life.



<https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/featured/products/pay-it-forward>



Lynn Thompson – Has a new series of hand-made cards featuring origami decorations using assorted papers. The cards are \$2.00 each and all proceeds go to Union Church. Anyone interested in ordering cards can reach Lynn by phone (450-218-6131) or email (lynnathompson3@icloud.com) and arrangements can be made for pickup or delivery.

Send a card, Fund a student – Caring for Kenya, Ebi Kimanani Scholarship Cards are available for purchase. The cards celebrate Christmas and special occasions and can be given as a gift or part of a gift. A donation of \$10 per card, contributes to the cost of sending 16 girls and boys to secondary school in the Itegero region of Kenya. Handmade pillowcases by Linda Toivanen will also be available. All donations of cash or cheques are gratefully received. Cheques can be made out to Beaurepaire United Church (Caring for Kenya on the memo line). Tax receipts provided. Address inquiries to Susan Cruickshank (susanc394@hotmail.com / 514-694-3382).



Please note that the **Church Café** will be on hiatus starting Dec. 24th returning Jan 14th

These and other announcements available in the Mid-week message [available on www.mergingwaters.ca](http://www.mergingwaters.ca)