JOINT SERVICE
STE-GENNY'S/MERGING WATERS
November 24th 2024

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS MERGING WATERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS STE-GENNY'S

INTROIT: We Are One in the Spirit P. Scholtes, arr. M. Woytiuk

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Creator, help us right the wrongs that have been done to the Kanienkeha:ka and other First Nations on this land, and teach us how to share this land with all who live on it and seek refuge here. Amen.

CENTERING : Breath Prayer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome in the name of the Creating One,
who is ever at work outside and inside,
shaping the universe,
which extends out as far as we can imagine and beyond,
and as far inward as we can imagine and beyond.
You invite us to care for the generations to come
and honor those that have passed.
May this time of celebration in community,
reflect that invitation.
Let us worship our Creator.

source: Adapted from Gathering Pentecost 2, 2024 by Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane, Alta

GATHERING HYMN: VU #395 Come in and Sit Down

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER OF APPROACH

God, you touch our lives
with mystery and hope.
We come to this place today,
ready to see your power working through us.
Help us to be open to your Word,
and to answer your call among us.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN: MV #216 Wherever You May Go

OPENING WORDS

HYMN: VU #288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness v. 1

Deuteronomy 32.7: Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.

Merging Waters stories about the Bible that is given.

HYMN: VU #288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness v.2

Psalm 145.4: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

STE-GENNY'S STORIES:

HYMN: VU #288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness v.3

Psalm 78.6: […] that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children

CHILDREN'S TIME:

HYMN: MV #62 There is Room For all/ Chacun à sa place

Psalm 71.18: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

CLOSING WORDS

BIBLE DEDICATION

On behalf of Merging Waters United Church,
we present this Bible
to be dedicated to the glory and praise of God.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIBLE

With gratitude, we accept this Bible.
We will care for it, and we will use it reverently.

Living God,
you satisfy the hunger in our hearts
with the nourishment of your Word.
Fill us with the faith of the gospel,
that we may be strong to walk in the ways of Christ,
eager to listen for his voice,
and ready to respond to his Spirit.
So may our lives be gospel,
telling all who read them
the story of your matchless love in Christ,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING: Thanks Be To God (Sheldon Curry)

DOXOLOGY : MV #191 What Can I Do?

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy One, bless our offerings, the ones that fit on the offering plate, and the ones that overflow from our hearts: our time, our talent, our ideas, our friendship. Send upon them your Holy Spirit and transform them through the work of your Church into life-giving relationships, a reflection of your kingdom of love. In Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Justice, God of Love,
God of Peace, God of Joy,
God of Heartaches, and of Grief, God of healing,
we thank you for reminding us of the wise words
of the prophets from Moses and Myriam to Martin Luther King Jr., and Greta Thunberg.
We give thanks as we remember that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made,
though we may not always notice it, feel it, or understand
the true meaning of those words,

Eternal One,
we come before you as siblings, as creatures great and small,
as the wonderful works of your hands.
At this moment, we pray for those who cannot give you praise due to persecution,
and those who cannot give you praise because they are wondering if you are still with them.
Lead us not into temptation but into the hard work of ensuring the least of these are given water, shelter, food, and access to education and health care.

We also lift up to you in this moment, either out loud or in the silence of our hearts
places and people needing God's care

May we worship you by encouraging each other.
May we give you praise by always remembering that we are all your children.
May the peace that passes all understanding
show us how to not only read the Holy Word
but live the word by our holy acts of love.
May you help us to live our joy and love out loud.
May you receive our prayers, O God.
Amen.

source: Gathering Pentecost 2: Dieulita Datus, St Andrews U.C., Lacombe Alta

PILGRIMAGE HYMN: MV #213 Take Up His Song

BLESSING AND SENDING

Let us go out in solidarity and friendship,
Sharing the Word of God, in written form and in our way of life.
Let us go out, full of hope and expectation.

And may the love of the Creator, our Holy Parent
The courage of Christ, our brother
and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our companion,
Be with us this day and forever more. **Amen.**

HYMN: We shall go out in hopes of resurrection (recession outside)

BURIAL OF THE OLD STE-GENNY'S BIBLE

On this holy ground, near the cornerstone of this building erected for the glory of God, we return this Bible to the earth, knowing that, though its pages will decay and feed new plant life, its words live within us and grow our ministry.
Triune God, Creator, Word, and Spirit, we thank you for the pioneers who founded this community of faith. We thank you for all the faithful people who, throughout the years, have read and gazed upon this Bible, drawing from it wisdom and a sense of purpose.
We thank you for our siblings of Beaurepaire United Church now Merging Waters for their friendship, their generosity and their trust.

As this Bible returns to the earth that produced it, may your Word live on in all who believe and are faithful to you.

In Jesus Christ, the living Word, we pray.
Amen.