This Photo by Unknown Author is

Merging Waters United Church

Earth Day

Sunday Morning Worship April 27, 2025

WELCOME / BIENVENUE

People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome.	Toutes et tous sont bienvenus, peu importe l'âge, l'identité ou les conditions de vie.202
Wherever you are, whoever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship.	Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans l'amour et la communauté pour louer Dieu ensembles.
Wherever we are, we're close in one another's hearts.	Notre amour n'est jamais limité par la distance.

Please join in the responses in **bold text.** Veuillez-vous joindre aux réponses en **texte gras.**

Keep our worship scent-free! To help fellow worshippers with chemical sensitivities, please do not wear perfume or scented products (lotion, hair spray) if attending in person.

Veillez à ce que notre culte soit exempt d'odeurs ! Pour aider les fidèles souffrant de sensibilités chimiques, nous vous demandons de ne pas porter de parfum ou de produits parfumés (lotion, laque) si vous assistez au culte en personne.

To protect personal privacy, please do not take photos or videos without authorization.

Pour protéger la vie privée, ne prenez pas de photos ou de vidéos sans autorisation.

WELCOME

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING

MUSICAL CENTERING

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

We give thanks for the land,
for the lakes and rivers,
for the hills and mountains.
For the trees, grass, flora and fauna,
For the sand, soil, and rock we live upon.

We give thanks for "all our relations,"
For the fish, birds, and mammals,
For the reptiles who crawl on the ground
And insects who buzz in the air.

We give thanks for those who have been stewards of this land for
Thousands upon thousands of years,
For the Mohawk or Kanienkeha:ka, Huron-Wendat and Anishnaabe
Among the teachings of these nations is a core value called the Seventh Generation which takes into consideration those who are not yet born but who will inherit the world. It teaches us to respect the world in which we live as we are borrowing it from future generations.

This can also be applied to understanding past and existing relationships
between non-indigenous and indigenous peoples.

We give thanks for being able to call this place home.
We acknowledge the responsibility that comes with that.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

HYMN: MV #41 O Beautiful Gaia

Refrain:
O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia calling us on.

1. Soil yielding its harvest,
0 Gaia, calling us home.

Soil yielding its harvest,
calling us on. R
O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia calling us on.

2. Waves crashing on granite,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Waves crashing on granite,
calling us on. R
O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia calling us on.

3 Pine bending in windstorm,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Pine bending in windstorm,
calling us on. R
O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia calling us on.

4. Loon nesting in marshland,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Loon nesting in marshland,
calling us on. R
O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia calling us on.

MYSTERIES, YES

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous
to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.

How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.

How two hands touch and the bonds will never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always,
with those who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company with those who say
"Look!" and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

From Devotions (2017) by Mary Oliver (one of her favourite poets)

OPENING PRAYER AND LIGHTING THE CANDLE

God of divine mystery, as we gather on this Earth Day and light this candle, we give thanks for the diversity and wonder of this vulnerable planet which is our home; the land, the air, the oceans and all living things that form the rich tapestry of life.

We pray for people whose lives and homelands are threatened by the exploitation of the earth. We pray for those who struggle to survive without clean water and with the growing scarcity of traditional resources that have sustained them and their families through the ages

We pray for the leadership of governments and industry throughout the world. May they be given the vision and the commitment to protect the planet and the well-being of all peoples.

We pray for Indigenous people and those involved in environmental movements around the world, who alert us to the consequences of not caring for the earth and who challenge us to tread more lightly.

We are here as inhabitants of the earth. Help us to work together to deepen our love, respect and responsibility towards the earth.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SONG: The Compost Song (Spare Parts) by Jack Johnson

[Chorus]
Healthy soil makes healthy plants
Healthy plants make healthy food
Healthy food makes healthy people
Healthy people have good attitudes

[Verse 1]

It's time to get back down underground
To the microorganism town
We've got old dead leaves and sticks from trees and bugs all around
A lot of decomposing goin' down
We've got the FBI - fungi, bacteria
And invertebrates
We're breaking down organic matter back into the soil
So the roots can have a taste

[Chorus]

Compost that's the way to get the most
Nutrients back in the soil
Nutrients back in the soil
So compost!

INTRODUCTION TO ROBERT BROWN

LET'S GET DOWN TO EARTH ABOUT COMPOSTING (Robert Brown)

PRAYER FOR A NEW COMPOST PILE

We give thanks for your gift of soil
For the reminder that even the dirt beneath our feet is precious
And that even the smallest creature is loved by You.
Mother Earth, bless these worms that proclaim Your glory,
The bacteria, fungus, and insects that do Your work.
Bless the soil they create, that it may nourish Your people
And restore Your earth that we have degraded.
Teach our hearts also to be fertile soil for our planet
And bless us with the abundance of love,
With fruit of the earth, seasonable weather, and great love for each other.
Amen

From: Ecotheology blog wordpress.com

HYMN: MV #37 Each Blade of Grass

1. Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.

Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God..

2. Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

3. Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord grant us the wisdom to care for the earth
Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures
Help us to become instruments of a new creation
Founded on the covenant of your love.
Amen

HYMN: MV # 154

Deep in Our Hearts

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

deep in our hearts there is a common song;

deep in our hearts there is a common story,

telling Creation that we are one.

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.

3. Deep in our, hearts there is a common longing;

deep in our hearts there is a common theme;

deep in our hearts there is a common current,

flowing to freedom like a stream.

4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

deep in our hearts there is a common song;

deep in our hearts there is a common story,

telling Creation that we are one.

SENDING

We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world.

We have been wrong.

We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption,

that what is good for the world will be good for us.

And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it.

Wendell Berry (1978). "The unsettling of America: culture & agriculture", Random House (NY)

MUSICAL SENDING:

Thank you for joining in worship today ♥

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH
A community of caring within the United Church of Canada
24 Maple, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
Lisa Byer-de-Wever, Pastor

Merging Waters
United Church
Welcome Grace Service Love
Community

Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music
Jo-Anne Windover, Office Administrator
office@mergingwaters.ca
(514) 457-5819
www.mergingwaters.ca

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

May 4	Intercultural session #9 "Power and Privilege"
Looking Ahead – June 1	A special service to celebrate Lisa's commissioning with reception to follow. Save the date and watch for more details!