# Merging Waters United Church

## Sunday Morning Worship May 4, 2025

## Intercultural Sunday # 9

## Power and Privilege

# WELCOME / BIENVENUE

| | |
|---|---|
| People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome.<br><br>Wherever you are, whoever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship.<br><br>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.<br><br>Peu importe où que vous soyez, qui que vous soyez, nous vous accueillons dans l'amour et la communauté pour louer Dieu ensembles.<br><br>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

## ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY & CANDLE LIGHTING

As we light this candle today, we remember and honour the sacred fires around which First Nations peoples have gathered to receive stories of the Creator from Elders, especially the Kanienkeha:ka, Huron-Wendat and Anishnaabe Peoples.

**We gather around this light to remind ourselves that we are called into community in Your love.**

## CENTERING MUSIC VU # 1 Let Us Build a House

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2. Bâtissons un lieu où parleront
librement les prophètes;
les enfants de Dieu rêveront
d'une nouvelle Fête.
Une croix sera le témoin
de la grace parmi nous:
nous serons unis par I'amour divin!
Venez, entrez! Venez, entrez!
Venez, entrez! C'est chez vous!

3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and-wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that trees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

4. Bâtissons un lieu duquel nos mains
s'offriront en s'ouvrant,
pour servir au loin les prochains
au Nom du Dieu vivant.
Ceux qui sont courbés, opprimés,
enfin se mettront debout;
les dangers et leurs peurs sont écartés.
Venez, entrez! Venez, entrez!
Venez, entrez! C'est chez vous!

5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

## GATHERING PRAYER

We gather here today as we always do, Gracious and inviting God, knowing you are here.
We are anxious to be reassured about life and about our place in life.
But today is not like other days because today we continue our journey once again on learning what it means to create a beloved community. As we take this time today to consider our role in creating spaces of welcome where all can be their authentic selves, help us to be mindful that we are all connected to each other, to the earth, and to you.
Give us insight on what are the things we can and need to let go of so that you may come to live more fully in our lives.
Give us the senses to notice injustice, spirits to risk in the name of those being oppressed,
and hearts to embrace all who are wounded and traumatized.
Continue to challenge us in our biases and embrace us in our wrestling and learning.
This we pray in Jesus' name, whose path we follow. **Amen**.

## FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

## WEAVING GOD'S TAPESTRY – Ritual and Safe space

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

## THE WORD (SCRIPTURE) Galatians 2: 27-28

**27** As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with

Christ. **28** There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus

## INTRODUCTION TO “The Joy of Unlearning racism: What White people have to gain?”

## EXPLORING POWER

## OFFERING INVITATION

Weave /
*Rosemary Crow*
Refrain
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.
V.1
We are many textures,
we are many colours,
Each one different from the other.
But we are entwined with one another
in one great tapestry.
Refrain
V.2
We are diff’rent instruments,
playing our own melodies,
Each one tuning to a diff’rent key.
But we are all playing in harmony,
in one great symphony.
Refrain
V.3
A moment ago, we did not know
our unity, only diversity,
The divine in me meets the divine in you,
in one great family.
Refrain

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Beloved Shalom,

Today we dedicate this offering of our time, talents, and resources to your work in our neighborhood and around the world.

May it find the places desperately in need of love.

May it be a beacon of hope for all.

Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of the People
We come before you, O God, arms akimbo and legs entangled.
Knotted together, we stumble before you.
In your blessings, you soothe and smooth,
fitting and forming, rearranging us and weaving us into one body in Christ.
In your blessing, you take what we give and who we are, tooling our gifts and ourselves into your mission for an aching world.
Thank you O spirit, for that inspiration of hope.
Amen.

We pray the prayer that we have heard so many times. Today
as we pray and hear the words again, we will listen with
intent and the knowledge that the whole community of Christ
in the world prays with us and knowing God equips us for creating Beloved Community, the Kin-dom here on earth.

## JESUS' PRAYER SUNG VU #960

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy 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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

## CLOSING HYMN MV # 140 As Long as We Follow

English:
1. As long as we follow
in the way that God is leading,
we know God's reign will surely come. (2x)

Refrain:
We know this, we know this.
Yes, God's reign will surely come.

2. As long as we hope*
there is a future for creation,
a future for the universe. (2x) R

*additional verses: "pray" (or "sing") and "act"

Lingala:
1. Na nzela na lola tokotambola malembe,
malembe tokotambola. (2x)

Refrain:
Malembe, malembe, malembe tokotambola.

2. Na nzela na lola tokoyemba na esengo
malembe tokotambola. (2x) R

3. Na nzela na lola tokoteya na esengo
malembe tokotambola. (2x) R

4. Na nzela na lola tokobondela masiya
malembe tokotambola. (2x) R

Liflgala pronunciation:
1. Nah zay-lah nah loh-lah toh-koh-tahm-boh-lah mah-lehm-bay...
2. Nah zay-lah nah loh-lah toh-koh-yehm-bah nah eh-sehn-goh...
3. Nah zay-lah nah loh-lah toh-koh-teh-yah nah eh-sehn-goh...
4. Nah zay-lah nah loh-lah toh-koh-bohn-deh-la mah-see-yah...

*Words: Joseph Kabemba, Congo. Words and English translation copyright © 2004 General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## BLESSING & SENDING

God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you day by day.
May God's peace, God's joy, God's presence be
with you in every stage of your life's journey.
And may you live and be God's beloved Shalom.
Amen.

## SENDING SONG **Hymn to Freedom**: *Oscar Peterson, Lyrics Hariette Hamilton*

When every heart joins every heart and together yearns for liberty,
That's when we'll be free.

When every hand joins every hand and together molds our destiny,
That's when we'll be free.

Any hour any day, the time soon will come when we will live in dignity,
That's when we'll be free.

When every voice joins in our song and together singing harmony,
That's when we'll be free.

Any hour any day, the time soon will come when we will live in dignity,
That's when we'll be free.

When every voice joins in our song and together singing harmony,
That's when we'll be free.

**Thank you for joining in worship today ❤️**

## MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada
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**UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.**

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|---|---|
| May 11 | Family Sunday – Mothers' Day ❤️ |
| May 18 | Communion |
| Looking Ahead – June 1 | A special service to celebrate Lisa's commissioning with reception to follow. Save the date and watch for more details! |