Merging Waters United Church

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day

Creation Time 4

Sunday Morning Worship October 5, 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.
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

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Apology from the UCC Moderator to First Nations Peoples 1986

Long before my people journeyed to this land your people were here, and you received from your Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured.
We did not hear you when you shared your vision.
In our zeal to tell you of the good news of Jesus Christ we were closed to the value of your spirituality.
We confused Western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ. We imposed our civilization as a condition for accepting the gospel.
We tried to make you be like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were. As a result you, and we, are poorer and the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred, and we are not what we are meant by God to be. We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed.

The Right Rev. Robert Smith, 1986 *Moderator of The United Church of Canada*

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

RECONCILIATION SONG — We Did Not Hear You

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

We come together as one in Christ
We are not all the same
Our diversity is our blessing
We are all welcome here, no one better than the other
All gifts from all cultures treasured
We are One and Many, Let us Worship God

GATHERING PRAYER

Mystery that surrounds us,
Untwist us, bring us clarity today,
Help us to recognize the image of Creation in us all.
Help us to understand the depth and richness of many cultures.
Soften our hearts so that we never again confuse our ways for the full breadth, length, and height of Christ Jesus.
Journey together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that all your peoples may be blessed and the fullness of creation healed. Amen.

GATHERING SONG — Amazing Grace

GATHERING HYMN: MV # 1, vs 4-5 — Let Us Build a House

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

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.

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD

Lamentations 1:1–6, 3:19–26

Lamentations 1:1–6 NRSVUE The Deserted City

1 How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces
has become subject to forced labor.

2 She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers,
she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her;
they have become her enemies.

3 Judah has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations;

she finds no resting place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.

4 The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate;
her priests groan;
her young girls grieve,[a]
and her lot is bitter.

5 Her foes have become the masters;
her enemies prosper
because the Lord has made her suffer
for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away,
captives before the foe.

6 From daughter Zion has departed
all her majesty.
Her princes have become like stags
that find no pasture;
they fled without strength
before the pursuer.

Lamentations 3:19–26 MSG

It's a Good Thing to Hope for Help from God

19-21 I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness,
the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed.
I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—
the feeling of hitting the bottom.
But there's one other thing I remember,
and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:

22-24 God's loyal love couldn't have run out,
his merciful love couldn't have dried up.
They're created new every morning.
How great your faithfulness!
I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over).
He's all I've got left.

25-27 God proves to be good to the man who passionately waits,
to the woman who diligently seeks.
It's a good thing to quietly hope,
quietly hope for help from God.

It's a good thing when you're young
to stick it out through the hard times.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

HYMN VU # 684 Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

OFFERING INVITATION

We are called to participate in the healing of the world.
Our offerings can enable this community and others
to be what the church is called to be,
offering healing and love.

OFFERING HYMN TLUS#60 There's Enough for All

There's enough for all if we would learn to share it,

there's enough for all oh, help us to believe.

There's enough for all.

Let's bring our loaves and fishes, and share them just like Jesus.

There's more than enough for you and me.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May these gifts be more than symbolic but lead us to sincere words and actions. May our offering present opportunities for partnerships of love, understanding, unity, strength, and respect with all our siblings. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN TLUS #29 When Jesus Sets the Table

It is right to praise you,
who created the splendour of the mountains and fields
and the wonder of rain, wind, and sunshine,
and the diversity of all peoples.
With angels, prophets, paupers and visionaries
with every generation
gathered around your heavenly table,
we remember what you have done for us.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For the bread we have eaten, the wine we have tasted,
and the life we have received,
we thank you, God.
Grant that we may grow in learning and unlearning,
working towards your vision of beloved community.
In reconciliation, and healing,
that ours may be lives of faithful and hopeful action,
in Christ's name. Amen

JESUS' PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER in Mohawk

Takwaién: 'a ne karonhià:ke tehsì:teron
Aiesahsén:naien, aiesawenniiosthake
Aiesawennarahkhwake nonhwentsà:ke

Tsi-ni:ioht ne karonhià:ke tiesawennararahkwa.
Tak wa:nont ne ken'wén:te iationhnhéhkwen
nia'tewenhnisera:ke
Sasa'nikonhrhen nionkwarihwanéren
Tsi ni:ioht ni: 'l tsonkwa 'nikonhrhens
Othé:nen ionkhi 'nikonhraksà:ton non:kwe
Tohsa aionkwa'shén:ni ne karihwanéren
Akwé:kon é:ren sha:wit ne iotaksen
Ehtho naia:wen!

The UCC APOLOGY 1988

SENDING HYMN TLUS # 129 — We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we shall overcome some day!

We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
we'll go hand in hand some day!

We shall all be free, we shall all be free,
we shall all be free, some day!
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall all be free some day!

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace, some day!
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
we shall live in peace some day!

BLESSING & SENDING

May God open you to fullness of the divine image through all of creation
May Christ journey with you as you learn more about the first people of this place
May the Spirit call you into the continuing ministry of reconciliation

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

Merging Waters
United Church
Welcome Grace Service Love
Community

UPCOMING SERVICES at 10:30 a.m.

12-Oct	Thanksgiving Bring donations of nonperishable food and colourful socks for SOCKtober
19-Oct	World Food Sunday Led by Outreach Spare Parts
26-Oct	Celebration of our Affirming status! Special guests Sweets after worship