Merging Waters United Church

Creation 5

Thanksgiving Sunday

“Interconnected, Interdependent and Grateful”

Sunday Morning Worship October 11, 2026

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

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE (LIGHT A CANDLE)

We light this candle to remember that we are one body in Christ and one body with creation. Each flame reminds us of the Spirit that moves through soil and breath, through heart and hand. As the body has many parts, so the earth has many gifts — all sustained by divine love. May this light awaken gratitude, deepen our care, and guide us to live in harmony with all that God has made.

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

GATHERING SONG: Song of Community

Carolyn McDade

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

The world tells us "Compete to thrive."
Paul teaches "If all the parts were alike,
where would the body be?"
"They are, indeed, many different members
but one body."
We are learning "cooperation and gratitude are a better model,
not only for surviving but for flourishing and thriving."
Let us bring ourselves full into this space
as with Creator,
who makes us one.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Paul Mitchell - adapted

GATHERING PRAYER

God of creation and community, in your love we have been made equal, beautiful, and diverse. In this time of worship, place into our hearts a spirit of reciprocity, recognizing that as we have been called into relationship with you, so too are we called into relationship with one another and all of creation. Your sacred calling to use our diverse gifts to support, uplift, and care for one another.

We know that alone we are limited, our resources scarce, but in cooperation with one another, in cooperation with our earth, in cooperation with you who give us life and breath, there is bountiful flourishing to be found. That through cooperation, all creation may live in joyful interdependence fully able to embrace your joyful love and peace. In gratitude we pray. Amen.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Kelby Werner - adapted

GATHERING HYMN VU # 291 — All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain vs 1, 2. 3, refrain vs 4,5 refrain

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD — 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 NRSVUE

One Body with Many Members

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

HYMN MV # 171 — Christ Has No Body Now but Yours

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING HYMN

Love Is Something If You Give It Away

Words and Music by Malvina Reynolds

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.

For love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Triune God, whose life is shared in perfect unity, you created all things to be part of one living whole. Help us see ourselves not as separate from creation but woven into its web of life. May our offerings reflect our deep connection to all your creatures. Bless us and our gifts so that we may nourish both human and more-than-human communities; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Dr. Brian Smith - adapted

Giving thanks

VU 236 Now Thank We all Our God

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Generous and Loving God,

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we gather in awe and gratitude for the abundance of your creation. You have woven us together — earth and spirit, neighbour and stranger, body and breath — each part sacred, each life sustained by your grace.

We give thanks for the harvest of the land and of the heart: for food that nourishes, for hands that prepare and share, for the laughter of community and the quiet moments of peace.

We thank you for the colours of autumn, the turning of seasons, and the reminder that all life moves in rhythm with your Spirit.

Teach us to live with gratitude that becomes generosity, and reciprocity that creates a gift economy, and to see our lives as part of your living body — connected to all people and all creation. May our thanksgiving not end at the table, but flow outward in acts of compassion and care.

We pray for those who hunger, for those who grieve, for those whose homes or hearts feel empty.

Share silently or out loud the names of those needing care
Wholly Love, hear our prayers and may each of them be filled with hope and surrounded by love.

We pray for the earth itself — for rivers and forests, for creatures great and small, for balance where there is strain, and renewal where there is harm.

Make us faithful stewards of the body of creation, so that all may flourish in your light.

As one body in Christ and one creation in your love, we offer our thanks and our lives to you — in gratitude, in service, and in joy.
Amen.

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever

JESUS' PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN MV#30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

BLESSING & SENDING

To give is to love.
To love is to live.
To live is to grow.
To grow is to flourish.

May we who follow Jesus
enter into Communion
with God's self-giving love.
May we sing the life and love
of Christ in the world
this day and beyond.

"The Serviceberry": Rev. Paul Mitchell - adapted

SENDING SONG Thanks Be to God

based on "Londonderry Air"
arranged with new lyrics by Seldon Curry

Thank you for joining in worship today ❤

Date	Worship Notes	Family Activities
11-Oct	Creation Time 5: Bringing it all together Thanksgiving Sunday: Think about what you are thankful for! 🦃 Please bring a nonperishable food item 🥫	Carling leads the children and youth family program.
18-Oct	World Food Sunday 🍽 Special presentation on West Island food security projects, from Table de Quartier	Activity packs available at the family table 🎭
25-Oct	Pyjama Sunday! 🧸 Music by Spare Parts 🎸 😈 Please bring donations of socks for our 2nd annual Socktober! 🧦 Special brunch after worship	Wear your PJs! 🧸 Join Lynn and Susan at the family table Bring sock donations to throw after worship! 🧦 Special breakfast for lunch 😉
1-Nov	All Saints: Remembering those we lost last year 💔	Activity packs available at the family table 🎭

MERGING WATERS UNITED CHURCH

A community of caring within the United Church of Canada
24 Maple, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
Rev. Lisa Byer-de-Wever, Minister
Michael Woytiuk, Ministry of Music
Jenna Peace, Office Administrator
Carling Barry, Family Program Coordinator
Léah Rivérin, Senior's Program Coordinator

office@mergingwaters.ca
(514) 457-5819
www.mergingwaters.ca

Merging Waters
United Church

Welcome Grace Service Love
Community