

We Come Together

Greeting

Land Acknowledgement

As we journey in this season of Lent, we acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, worship and play is the unceded territory of the Wabanaki people; in this area they are the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. As we grow deeper in relationship with God through this season, may we also grow in relationship with all Indigenous peoples, seeking reconciliation and peace.

Announcements

Minute For Mission

Call to Worship:

One: May we find God's courage here—

All: courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.

One: May we find God's hope here—

All: hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.

One: May we find God's truth here—

All: truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.

One: Maybe find God's welcome here—

All: Welcome in fellowship and welcome in worship.

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

Holy One, As we enter worship this day, allow us to feel the presence of Your Son Jesus walking with us on this Lenten road. Show us what to pick up and what to put down. Give us the courage to leave behind all that holds us back from seeing the life of abundance and love that lie ahead. Help us to break ourselves open in the presence of Your Spirit, accepting all that we are. Embolden us in offering our entire self to others in Your name, that our lives may be complete, and our hearts be made whole. In the Spirit and Joy of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Come to My Heart"

VU#661

Personal Prayer: (MV# 16 "Come and Fill Our Hearts) X 3
(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)

Children's Learning Time

Children's Prayer:

In love dear God, we come to you, in peace and hope with Your Spirit too. Each one of us are different in Your sight, with different dreams that bring delight. Some are older, some are young, some have long hair while others none. Whatever we look like and from wherever we come, You have gifted and claimed us, as we walk with Your Son. Help us to share that love and that light, that all Your children's lives be bright. Amen.

***Hymn:** "I Am a Child of God"

MV#157

We Listen to the Word

Prayer for Illumination:

Reader: Esther

Loving God, help us to find a quiet centre in You, so that as we receive this ancient word and story, we will understand them as if for the first time, fresh, alive, and filled with meaning and hope for this Your Word offered in love for our living. **Amen.**

Scripture Lesson: John 12: 1-8

Response: One: This is the Word of God.

All: Love for our living, Light for our path.

Sermon "Brazen Acts of Beauty"

Anthem "I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me" **VU#575**

Prayers of the People

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering:

In vulnerability and in trust, today Mary breaks herself open offering all that she is, and all that she has to Jesus. In response, Jesus accepts Mary for who she is and the gifts she offers. As we so boldly do the same, we encounter the acceptance and the love for which our spirits long. In response to this great gift, we now offer our own gifts, praying they be used to bring healing and light to the world.

Offertory Prayer: *(unison)*

Receive, O God, all that we are: our treasures, our time, our talents, and even our forgiven flaws. May Your Grace be made known through our giving, that others may be healed by the Spirit and shown light, illuminating the path we all walk with Christ, our great friend, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Travel On, Travel On"

VU#647

***Extinguishing our Lenten Light**

One: As we extinguish this Lenten Light, may we all come to know the Grace that leads us, accepts us, and guides us through our living.

All: **Loving God, we thank You that You are with us, and that we may call upon You no matter where we are or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of Your presence and trusting in Your promise— that You are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Keep us on this Lenten Road, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude

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Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Mar 26 Tracy **Apr 2** Elizabeth **Apr 7** Erik **Apr 9** Erik

Ushers for the coming weeks:

Mar 26 John B. & Sue R. **Apr 2** Sandra & Gil **Apr 9** Terry & Karen

This Week's Events

Monday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	10:00am	M&P Meeting	Boardroom
Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Kitchen
	1:30pm	Book Study	Boardroom
Wednesday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Friday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall

(Scouts and Guides meet in the church hall Mon – Thurs evenings)

Book Study: "Building God's Beloved Community". Join us on Tues. March 28th at 1:30pm for the next book study.

The Ministry & Personnel Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023. If members or adherents have praise or concerns about our minister and/or lay staff, they may be submitted in writing by email to mandpchair@mountroyaluc.ca or left in the M & P mail box by the Mount Royal Blvd entrance. Your feedback is important. All submissions are considered confidentially.

Good Friday Service: Mount Royal will have a Good Friday service on April 7th at 7pm.

1st Jones Lake Scouting: Try your first 2 meetings for FREE! ALL Youth Ages 5 - 17 are welcome! Programs Offered: **Beavers** (Ages 5 – 7) • **Cubs** (Ages 8 – 10) • **Scouts** (Ages 11 – 14) • **Venturers** (Ages 14 – 17). More info call/text Daniel @ 864-0028.

Council Highlights from March 14th Council Meeting: **CORRESPONDENCE:** We received lovely thank you letters from St. Bernadette and Hillcrest schools thanking the congregation for their White gift donations in Dec. **FINANCE:** The treasurer submitted end of year financial statements and presented the 2023 budget. In general, 2022 was a tough year, good things such as upgrades, repairs, building improvements happened, however, expenses were also up. The wage subsidy and roof fund helped in 2022. Expenses are fairly fixed and recurring costs are consistent. The greening of the building should help slightly. The 2023 budget was created as conservatively as possible. Projected revenues don't include anything extraordinary such as wage subsidy which we have seen in previous years. The budget for tech has increased and the treasurer will give a greater breakdown for this at the Annual Meeting. **M&P:** Recommended that Rev. Scott attend a Young Leaders conference on April 13th & 14th and the Revitalize Conference June 7th – 11th. **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** A programmable thermostat was installed in the social hall. The LED lighting project will be completed in March. **WORSHIP:** Committee is looking into holding a music night possibly in May. Recommended that masks are no longer mandatory in the sanctuary. A "mask mandatory" pew will be available. France will begin to use the organ again. **NOMINATIONS:** currently there is no chair. Marlene M. will read the report at the annual meeting. **UCW/CRAFT GROUP:** Craft group and UCW meets regularly. Bridge will wrap on for the season on March 23rd. **FUNDRAISING/ TRUSTEES:** There are some fundraisers on the horizon. Sobey's cards will be available in the next couple of weeks, and a rummage sale in April. **NEW BUSINESS:** Visioning Report presentation will be held on May 6th at 9:00am in the church hall.

At Mount Royal United Church, our mission is to serve God; living our faith inside and outside these walls and nurturing each individual on their faith journey.

