



Mount Royal United Church

"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."

December 17th, 2023 – Advent 3

Congregational responses in bold.

(*) indicates standing

We Come Together

Hymn Sing ... (*This is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music as we choose and sing our most beloved hymns of praise this Advent season*)

Greeting

Land Acknowledgement:

Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting:

One: How does a weary world experience joy?

All: Through the small everyday miracles of life,

One: in each breath we take, and each song we sing,

All: in every friendship we share, and smile we receive.

One: How does a weary world experience joy?

All: In worship and in wonder,

One: in prayer and in praise.

All: In joy, we gather close to manager,

One: In joy, we worship with friend and stranger.

(Lighting the Joy Candle)

Candle Lighting Hymn: "Look to the Light"

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, as we enter into worship this morning, we come weary from a world ever increasing in speed. In this season of waiting, we rush to prepare our homes, we hurry to trim the tree, we push through packed malls and parking lot jams; please slow us down. Remind us through the rhythm of worship that there is another way, another

cadence, another tempo to life filled with the Joy of this season. Fill our hearts with awe and wonder until Your Joy fills every corner of our living, busting fourth and into the world around us. In Jesus' Joyful name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "A Candle Is Burning" **VU# 6**

Personal Prayer: "Hope Is a Star" vs. 3 **VU# 7**

We Listen to the Word

Children's Time

Children's Time Prayer: (repeat after me)

We come to You, in joy dear God, because it helps us grow. Your Hope, and Peace, Your Love and Light are all gifts that we know. Thank You that Joy guides us, and brings us close to You. Let Joy be part of who we are, of all we say and do. Amen.

***Hymn:** "What Child Is This" **VU# 74**

Prayer for Understanding: **Reader: Karen**

Scripture Lesson:

Psalm 126 found on page 850 of VU. Refrain 1.

Gospel: Luke 1: 57-80

Response:

One: This is the Word of God,

All: **our joy in a weary world.**

Sermon "Joy in a Weary World"

Anthem "All on a Silent Night"

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn:** "O Ancient Love" **VU# 17**

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

***Sung Dedication:**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" **VU# 541**

***Offertory Prayer:** (*unison*)

Abundant God, sustain in us a willing spirit to serve Your purpose in the world. Inspire us to share peace where there is discontent, to bring healing in the place of hurt, to shine Your Love into the overlooked corners of our world. Remind us of the joy of reaching out to you even as you have already drawn near to us. Bless us and all we offer this day. Amen.

***Hymn:** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" **VU# 31**

***Blessing:**

May the Love of God, the Peace of Christ, and the Joy of the Holy Spirit, move with you from this place of sanctuary and into the week ahead. **Amen.**

***The Light of Joy Goes with Us**

***Choral Benediction** "Christmas Wish"

Postlude

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***Ushers:* Dec 17** Eleanor and Ensor
Dec 24 10:30am Katelyn & Colin **7:00pm** Kim & Kevin
***Screens:* Dec 17** Tracy **Dec 24** Erik

This Week's Events

Monday	7:00pm	Choir	Sanctuary
Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Club	Kitchen
Wednesday	7:00pm	Blue Christmas	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:00pm	Choir	Sanctuary

Mount Royal Announcements:

Grocery Card Fundraiser! This is an excellent way to support your church and one of our major fundraisers. Please buy a card from Terry after church or stop by the office to purchase during the week. They make great Christmas gifts!

Advent Donations: This is our final week of collecting **winter items** to share with community members in need. Suggested items: Winter hats, mittens/gloves, socks, handwarmers, underwear (mens & ladies, no XL please), sweatshirts/sweatpants, individually packaged snacks (juice boxes, granola bars etc), & deodorant/personal hygiene items. Please place items in **the basket** at the back of the church on any Sunday before Christmas or drop off at the office during office hours. Thank you to everyone who has brought in donations!

Blue Christmas – December 20th at 7pm. A quiet service of reflection as we acknowledge that even though this is a season of celebration not all may be right in our lives as we continue to find ourselves separated by illness, grieving various losses, and still experiencing the ups and downs of what it is to be human. (in person service only)

Christmas Eve Services will be held on December 24th at 10:30am and at 7:00pm. We sure hope you can make it to one or both!

White Gift Sunday: Thank you to everyone who donated to "White Gift" this season. We raised \$1380 for our neighbourhood schools!

Kids Korner: Today is the last Kids Korner of 2023. Our Sunday children's program will start back up on January 14th. In the meantime, there are pew packs at the back of the church with quiet activities for young people to use during the service.

Thank you to all our volunteers who make each Sunday so special, we could not do it without you!

Special gratitude to: our ushers, tech volunteers, choir members, tellers, UCW Coffee and Conversation folks, bulletin deliverers, scripture readers, Kids Korner teachers, sanctuary decorators, bulletin folders, Worship Committee volunteers, Property Committee volunteers & anyone I missed!

You are appreciated and thank you many times over for the offering of your time!!!

Memorial Tree Dedication

In loving memory of husband, father, grandfather & great grandfather <i>Sheldon Nicholson</i>	Nicholson Family
In loving memory of sister <i>Kerry Turner</i>	Cathy Elderkin
In loving memory of <i>Walter McQuinn</i>	Helen McQuinn
In loving memory of <i>Jessie & Harry Donaghy</i>	Karen & Terry Foreman
In loving memory of <i>Pearl & Ray Foreman</i>	Karen & Terry Foreman
In loving memory of <i>Wayne Foreman</i>	Karen & Terry Foreman
In loving memory of <i>Jean & Fred Hurley</i>	Karen & Terry Foreman
In loving memory of parents <i>Jean & Fred Hurley</i>	Sandra & Gil Webb
In loving memory of parents <i>Jean & Louis Webb</i>	Sandra & Gil Webb
In loving memory of husband, <i>Robbie Robinson</i>	Peggy Robinson
In loving memory of husband, <i>Lawrence MacDonald</i>	Audrey MacDonald
In loving memory of <i>Pauline & Carl Berry</i>	Valerie & Ron Berry
In loving memory of <i>Avis & Irving Scott</i>	Valerie & Ron Berry
In loving memory of <i>Bill Dutcher</i>	Shirley & Family
In loving memory of <i>Heather Dutcher</i>	Shirley & Family
In loving memory of <i>Eldon Freeman</i>	Ina Freeman



Clergy: The Rev. Scott Stuart, BA, MDiv. **Cell:** 506-295-8089

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