



# 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."

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**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Christmas Eve**

**Congregational responses in bold.**

**(\*) Indicates Standing.**

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## **We Come Together**

**Prelude:** "Mitt Hjerte Alltid Vanker" Lee, Charlie & France  
*(this is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music  
and prepare our hearts for worship)*

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

One: An unmarried teenage girl was invited,

**All: to carry Christ into this world.**

One: An ordinary carpenter was invited,

**All: to be a father to a child unlike any other.**

One: The shepherds were invited,

**All: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.**

One: The Magi were invited,

**All: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.**

One: She was invited, he was invited, and they were invited,

**All: and so, we to are invited.**

One: This story is for us,

**All: and this love surrounds us.**

One: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home as we  
worship at the manger.

## **Candle Lighting:**

One: This evening, as we light the Christ Candle, we celebrate the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that have been woven into this world and our lives. This light is our hearts delight that comes in the most unexpected of ways, at the most unexpected of times...

*(Lighting the Christ Candle)*

One: Our waiting is over!

**All: The Light of the World, born to us in a manger.**

**\*Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**VU#60**

## **Opening Prayer** *(in unison)*

**Holy One, choirs of angles sang to Your glory on the night of Jesus' birth. As we worship this evening our hearts cry out in joy, and our spirits rejoice as the Light of all lights enters this world. Like the shepherds we come this evening in awe of your Grace poured out for one and all this evening; and on this most holy of nights, may our worship draw us ever closer to Your manger where we behold Your precious Son. Amen.**

**Personal Prayer:** "Where Two or Three..." X 2

**MV#14**

**(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)**

## **We Listen to the Word**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

**Reader: Debbie**

Holy God, we've heard this story a million times. Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds. Invite us to hear this story with new ears and with an open heart. So, move among us now, circle back and draw us close. Open our hearts and fill them with Your goodness and help us to hear with spirits that are open to the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that has been revealed to us this night. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading:**

**Gospel:** Luke 2: 1 – 20 (*The Birth of Jesus*)

## **Response:**

**One:** This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** **Praise be to you, our Lord Jesus.**

**Sermon** "Home"

**Anthem** "Joseph's Carol"

## **Pastoral Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** "What Child Is This"

**VU#74**

## **We Respond to the Word**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

Jesus was born in a stable, in poverty and simplicity. He was born into a manger in Bethlehem and despite what little he might have had, Jesus still spent the rest of his days seeking out the lost and the lonely, giving of Himself to others. This evening, we give what we can, not because we should or because scripture says to. We give because we are one family with Jesus who has asked us to create a loving home for one and all.

### **Offertory Prayer (unison)**

**Gracious God, Your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like our home. As we offer our gifts this evening, we pray that You take them and use them in the continued building of Your Kingdom here and throughout the world. In gratitude and love, we pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

**Blessing:**

One: As we venture out this evening, we do so in hope.

**All: The hope of the world is here.**

One: As we venture out this evening, we do so in peace.

**All: The peace of the world is here.**

One: As we venture out this evening, we do so in joy.

**All: The joy of the world is here.**

One: As we venture out this evening, we do so in love.

**All: The love of the world is here.**

One: In stillness, we sit by the edge of Christ’s manger,

**All: and our hearts begin to sing...**

**\*Hymn:** “Silent Night, Holy Night”

**VU# 67**

*As we part this evening the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love,  
and Christ continue to burn brightly dispelling the darkness  
around them and warmly welcoming us home.*

**Postlude:**

“Have Yourself a Merry little Christmas” Lee, Charlie & France

**Merry Christmas!**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wed & Thurs 9am – 2pm; Friday 9am-12pm

***Screen operators for the coming weeks:***

**Dec 24 7pm** Erik    **Jan 1** Tracy    **Jan 8** Elizabeth    **Jan 15** Erik

***Ushers for the coming weeks:***

**Dec 24 @ 7pm** Jennifer & Nick    **Jan. 1** Sue R. & John B.  
**Jan. 8** Howard & John B.

***Announcements***

**Grocery Gift Cards** - are still available! Please contact the office to purchase. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser.



**Holiday Office Hours** – Office closes at noon on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Office is closed Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Open all other weekdays from 9am- 2pm.

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**Share Your Light in Prayer**

O God, light our way so we can join  
your world-changing mission.  
Cast before us a beacon of hope.  
Illumine the pathways to peace.  
Dispel despair by the dawn of joy.  
Draw us 'round the fire of your love.  
Set a star in the silent night  
like you did that first Christmas  
when seekers gathered in wide-eyed wonder  
before the nativity of compassion  
before they had any inkling  
how a single, precious child  
would change their world  
and generations later  
change it still.  
Amen.