



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."

January 23rd, 2022 – Third Sunday in Epiphany

Congregational responses in bold.

We Come Together

Prelude... (*this is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music and prepare our hearts for worship*)

Greeting

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Land Acknowledgement:

Announcements

Call to Worship: One: Jesus embraced his friends with love.

All: Let us witness to God with our arms.

One: Jesus wept when his friend's experienced grief.

All: Let us witness to God with our hearts.

One: Jesus healed people with his touch.

All: Let us witness to God with our hands.

One: Jesus taught in the synagogues and in the streets.

All: Let us witness to God with our ears.

One: Jesus walked alongside the oppressed.

All: Let us witness to God with our feet.

One: Jesus calls us together as his body,

All: to share in his ministry as his beloved church.

Opening Prayer: Creator of all, you call us into community, to work together as one body. Be with us today as we join our hearts and voices to bring praise to you who have perfectly created each of us. Help us to see past our

perceived imperfections, to see the beauty you created in us and in the world. Accept the praise of your family as we reach out to you, and each other, in worship and adoration. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, our great comfort and ever-present friend, Amen.

Hymn: "Will You Come and See the Light" **VU#96**

Personal Prayer "Send Your Holy Spirit" x2 **VU#370**
(concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer-ecumenical version)

We Listen to the Word

Children's Time

Children's Time Prayer: Today, dear Jesus, you gather us as children of your grace, and you name us as your body, working together in this place. As your spirit moves us, allow our hearts to shine, that we may ever walk with you, God's love within us, divine. Amen.

Hymn: "A Light Is Gleaming" **VU#82**

Prayer for Understanding **Reader:** Cathy Elderkin

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31

One: This is the Spirit of God calling,

All: comfort for our journey and light within our lives.

Sermon "Fresh Breath of Grace"

Anthem "Souvenirs d'enfance" Chau Vo

Prayers of the People

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering: Just as God has asked us to be the whole body of Christ, we are also asked to use our gifts and talents to further the work of God in our world. We have been blessed with an abundance of gifts: the communities we build, the families we nurture, the friends we love, the church we call home, our abilities, and our possessions. As the Body of Christ, we share

our gifts, praying God will take them and use them in such a way that all may come to know that grace and love.

Offertory Prayer (unison)

God, we offer these gifts to you knowing you have called us to work together, as you church. As we offer these gifts, bless now the gift and the giver. Accept our offering this day and multiply them beyond measure, using them and us, your body, to create a better world within all of creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn: "In the Darkness Shines the Splendour" **VU#92**

Blessing: May the perfect love of God, the unending grace of Jesus, and the presence of our comforter, the Holy Spirit, be with you, and with everyone you meet. **Amen.**

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

Postlude

~Words to music reprinted with permission One License #621976

Ministers: The Gathered Community
Clergy: The Rev. Scott Stuart, BA, MDiv.
Music Ministry: France Henriques
Office Administrator: Tracy Parrott
Custodian: Wayne Surette
Church Office: 855-5771
Kitchen Phone & Fax: 855-7180
Rev Scott Stuart's cell: 506-295-5918
Office e-mail: office@mountroyaluc.ca
Mount Royal website: www.mountroyaluc.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9am - 3pm

Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Jan 23 – Debbie, **Jan 30** – Esther, **Feb 6** – Elizabeth, **Feb 13** – Erik

Sound/Prompter operators for the coming weeks:

Jan 23 –Tracy, **Jan 30** – Stephen, **Feb 6** – Tracy, **Feb 13** – Stephen

Grocery cards are available for sale. Call Terry 388-4887 or office.

Silliness and sweets – Friday, Jan 28 at 7pm join Mount Royal folks for a virtual evening of bad jokes and a sweet treat. Bring along a joke or 2 to share out loud or in the chat during the Teams meeting or dial in by phone to hear the fun.

Council Highlights: CORRESPONDENCE: a request was received from Maranatha Faith Assemblies for rental of our building for a congregation of 60 members on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. It was decided to decline this request since we are currently closed to in person meetings. We will respond to their letter stating that we may entertain their request at a later date and explain our Covid protocols and rental rates. Thank you notes were received from Tracy Parrott, Camp Ta-Wa-Si, the Food Bank and Hillcrest School. The principal at Bessborough, thanked Rev Stuart in person. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT: The Finance Report for the 12 months ended Dec 31, 2021 was presented by the treasurer which shows a current year operating deficit of (\$11,856) compared to a surplus of \$18,012 last year. Local envelope givings are down by \$7,586 from last year to \$145,577 and fund raising is also down from 2019 by approximately \$20,000. To help offset some of this revenue reduction, the CEWS government wage subsidies were received totalling \$22,896. The current year deficit was also reduced by the surplus carried forward from previous years of \$40,956. This reduces the surplus to \$29,100 available for 2022. M & S and outreach givings are up slightly over last year. This year's white gift appeal resulted in \$2,140 of contributions. This was provided to Bessborough and Hillcrest schools Christmas food box programs, Reconnect drop in centre and St. George's breakfast and lunch programs. FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL: the Region will again hold its annual meeting virtually on June 3 and 4. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE: there have been issues with heat in the sanctuary and a programming issue with the thermostat in the back of the sanctuary was noticed. An electrician relocated the thermostat to the front of the sound booth to make it more accessible. The final draft of the Energy Audit report is being prepared. The committee will get together virtually and report to council at the next meeting. ADHOC VISIONING COMMITTEE: the committee met virtually on Jan 17 but the group is trying to set aside a Saturday to meet in person. The type of brainstorming required for this type of exercise works best when we can feed off others ideas in person. Stephen Townsend is doing an excellent job of leading us in this work. SYSTEMS COMMITTEE: There were 31 live viewers to the service on Jan

16, 29 on Jan 9 and 22 on Jan 2. Online viewership has always been strong but numbers are up now that we are in lockdown.

NOMINATIONS: There are still key positions that are not filled on council. These positions are: Treasurer, Worship committee chair, Ministry & Personnel chair, Nominations chair and BLAST Superintendent. During discussions Joe Avery came forward to offer as Treasurer, Rev. Stuart offered to act as interim chair of worship and Karen Tanner offered to act as interim BLAST rep until a replacement can be found. **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL:** the end of year performance appraisals had been completed with staff and the annual salary increases were approved.

PASTORAL CARE: the committee met on Jan 17 and reviewed the visiting flowchart. There are 6 persons on this committee and they would definitely welcome more. They are continuing to communicate with and support those living in isolation by way of phone calls. **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Packages were sent out to families with children to remind them that they are valued members of the community of faith and we haven't forgotten about them. The committee is planning a bad joke and treat evening for Jan 28 where you are welcome to join in and share laughter and fellowship with others virtually.

UCW/CRAFT GROUP: the UCW along with the Pastoral Care committee prepared gift bags for shut-ins before Christmas which were very much appreciated and they continue to stay in touch with folks by phone. **WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** Past services were reviewed and upcoming services discussed. **MINISTERS REPORT:** Rev Scott Stuart submitted a written report to outline his activities since the last council meeting. **FUNDRAISING/ TRUSTEES:** There are roughly \$3,500 Sobey's cards still available. **OUTREACH:** A meeting was attended with city stakeholders regarding homelessness. The Chamber of Commerce CEO, spoke about its commitment to the downtown community. Sandra Foreman-Webb would like to meet with Rev. Stuart and Susan Fowler to spearhead an initiative to assist in that direction. **NEW BUSINESS:** The striking of an executive committee of council was discussed. It would be helpful in emergency situations or during summer months when it may be difficult to reach council members. A motion to create the committee was made with the terms of reference to be defined and brought to council next month.

Annual Meeting – many felt that an annual meeting this year is vitally important and that a hybrid meeting, if allowed, would be ideal and allow the most attendees. It will likely take place in March or April.