

Jan 22nd, 2023. The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Congregational responses are in bold.

(*) Indicates Standing.

We Come Together

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

Greeting

The Light of Christ

Land Acknowledgement

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 they Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. As we are witness to the baptism of Jesus, may His Light guide us in restoring relationship with all Indigenous peoples.

Announcements

Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 27)

One: It is God who calls us here.

All: God, the stronghold of our lives, calls us here.

One: With the fears and anxieties of life swirling around us,

All: even then, we are not dismayed. God calls us here.

One: We long to dwell in God's house, to gaze on the beauty of God.

All: We find shelter and rest. We worship with great gladness.

One: With courage and strength, we wait upon God.

All: With courage and strength, let us worship God!

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

Holy One, reveal Your love to us, as You did to the first disciples. Uncover what we have in common with each other, so that love becomes the gift that binds us together in unity. As we continue to follow Jesus, reveal the many hidden ways that we have yet to see that love in action. Pour our Your Spirit, so that our hearts open to Your grace that is so freely given, in ways unexpected and often unnoticed. We offer our prayer in the name of the One whose "Follow Me" brought people together. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" **VU#325**

Personal Prayer: "Lord, Listen to Your..." X 2 **VU# 400**
(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)

Children's Learning Time

Children's Prayer:

In You, dear God, we find ourselves and who we are to be. It's Jesus who calls us to share ourselves for all the world to see. Thank you for the Spirit, that helps us all to know, that Your love is deep inside of us and stays with us as we grow. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours" **MV#171**

We Listen to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Reader: Lee

In the words we read and hear now, God, reveal to us a piece of Your love that we didn't know was there. Allow grace to wash over us as we hear how answering Your call brings about unity and love. Let these words shape us into people who see ourselves and others around us as part of Your story. Amen.

Scripture Lessons: **1 Corinthians 1: 10-18**
Matthew 4: 12-23

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is revealing to us, the Church!

All: **In curiosity, let us search for God's love.**

Sermon "The time is NOW"

Anthem "The Song of Twilight" *Grant Blakney*

Prayers of the People

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering:

God calls us to unity, but not to sameness. In order to offer what we have, we need to hear God's invitation to offer that which reflects who we are and what we believe. That means that each of

our gifts is different, but when brought together, serves the world God loves in ways that we can't always imagine when these gifts are on their own. Thanks be to God for the gift of unity, that brings our gifts together for the sake of the good of the whole.

Offertory Prayer: (*unison*)

Thank you, God, for seeing that these gifts which we offer have so much potential. Thank you that they work better together. Reveal to us our potential through them, reminding us that we too work better together with You and with each other. With joyful hearts, and in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" **VU#602**

***Benediction:**

One: Go forth with courage on the way, revived by answering God's call to love.

All: We go as people who have rested here, but leave transformed, not the same as who we once were.

One: Go forth believing that what you say and do reflects who you are as followers of Jesus.

All: We go as people who journey with Jesus, who strive for unity and love.

One: Go forth, feeling the Spirit poured upon you.

All: We go, knowing that we see that same Spirit poured upon others and upon all creation.

***Choral Benediction** "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" **MV#212**

Postlude

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This bulletin is dedicated by Ina Freeman in loving memory of Eldon Freeman who died on Jan. 21, 1996.

Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Jan 22 Stephen **Jan 29** Erik **Feb 5** Elizabeth

Ushers for the coming weeks:

Jan 22 Eleanor & Ensor **Jan 29** Kim & Kevin **Feb 5** Sandra & Gil

This Week's Events

Monday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	2:00pm	Sparks	Church Hall
	6:30pm	Cubs	Church Hall
Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Church Hall
	6:30pm	Beavers	Church Hall
Wednesday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thursday	1:00pm	Bridge	Church Hall
	6:15pm	Embers	Church Hall
Friday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall

M&P committee will be conducting annual performance reviews with our staff as part of the regular process for all United Church employees. To assist with this process, the committee is seeking feedback from members of the Community of Faith. If you would like to share your thoughts, accolades, or concerns regarding our relationship with Rev. Scott and/or our lay staff, please send an email to mandp@mountroualuc.ca or leave a signed letter in a sealed envelope in the M & P mailbox inside the Mount Royal entrance. All information will be strictly confidential to the M & P Committee. Deadline for submission is February 1, 2023.

Study leave: Rev. Stuart is on Study leave from January 16th - 22nd. In case of a pastoral emergency, contact the church office or Rev. Steve Berube (381-7869) of St. Paul's United Church, Riverview.

Kids Korner: Are you a young person who likes to have fun and learn about the Bible? Join us for children's programming every other week: **Jan:** 29 **Feb:** 12&26 **March:** 12 & 26 **Apr:** 9 & 23. Alternate weeks, explore our kid's korner pew packs in the sanctuary.

Upcoming Book Study: "*Building God's Beloved Community*" Be ready for this Lenten season book study by purchasing your book now. Contact the office for group ordering by Jan. 30th.

Council Highlights - CORRESPONDENCE: "Thank You" card from Camp Ta-Wa-Si received for Mount Royal's 2022 donation. MRUC received and approved a transfer of membership. **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** Highlighted both positives and negatives for Dec. 2022 and the overall year. 2022 saw a significant increase in repair expenses as well as increase in expenses overall while offerings also increased slightly. Complete financials for 2022 as well as the 2023 budget will be available in the Annual Report. **M&P:** Council approved Rev. Scott Stuar's March vacation request as well as a sick leave policy. Performance reviews of staff are occurring in February and M&P is seeking written feedback from congregation. **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** Grounds maintenance for 2023 will continue with the same company as previous years. Lighting project will move forward which is one of the last components of the Faithful Footprints and NB Power grants that were applied for in 2022. **PASTORAL CARE:** Continue to meet and make visits regularly. Christmas cookie delivery was very well received. **UCW/CRAFT GROUP:** Groups are meeting regularly, and Bridge has started back up. **WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** Committee meets regularly to review past services and plan for future services. Shared the importance of long-term planning. **TELLER:** Church has moved to monthly envelopes which is a significant change from weekly offerings. **MINISTERS REPORT:** Highlighted Christmas season services and shared study leave plans. There is an upcoming book study for Lent and pastoral visits continue. **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Kids Korner is off to a successful start and the Illustrated Ministries program being used has been well received. **VISIONING REPORT:** Report will soon be shared with the congregation as well as included in the 2022 Annual Report. **2022 ANNUAL MEETING:** Date has been set of Sunday, March 19th, 2023 with a storm date of Sunday, March 26th, 2023.

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.

