



# 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."

Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Fifth 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*)

\***Introit** "Worship the Lord" (refrain only)

**VU#401**

\***Greeting/Light of the Christ Candle**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

One: We come to worship God,

**All: who brings light into darkness.**

One: We come to worship Jesus,

**All: who offers food to the hungry.**

One: We come to worship The Spirit,

**All: who loves us and walks with us.**

One: We come to worship,

**All: bringing all that we are, just as we are.**

One: Come, let us worship!

**Opening Prayer:** (*unison*)

**Holy One, You welcome us in prayer and praise as a  
community of our faithful and as individuals held by Your  
grace. We bring now our diverse needs and dreams, trusting  
that You will hold them as You hold us. May our worship this  
morning draw us together into the rhythm of Your life. Let  
us each find ourselves embraced by the one who came to  
set us free, Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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

**VU#661**

**Personal Prayer:** "Where Two or Three..." x2

**MV#14**

**(Concluding with The Lord's Prayer)**

**\*Hymn:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" **VU#664**

## **Children's Learning Time**

### **Children's Prayer:**

**Thank You for the gift of love, that You so freely give. It guides us and shows us the ways of Jesus, the way that we all can live. Help us, O God, to forgive ourselves, so that we may share Your care. Throughout our lives and in our world, this is our daily prayer. Amen.**

### **We Listen to the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Reader: John**

### **Scripture Lessons:**

**Gospel: Luke 7: 36-50**

### **Response:**

**One:** This is God's Word of love,

**All:** **calling us together and setting us free.**

**\*Hymn:** "Deep in Our Hearts" **MV#154**

**Sermon** "The Rulebook of Love"

**Anthem** "In Remembrance"

### **We Respond to the Word**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

### **\*Sung Dedication:**

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

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

**Gracious and Generous God, we are amazed by the good gifts You bestow in abundance. Thank You for Your light that sustains us on our journey. Thank You for the company of Your Spirit to whom we are joined; and as we make our offerings, we ask that You take them and bless them for the good of this community and the good of this world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "All Who Hunger" **VU#460**

## **Sacrament of Communion**

One: We have heard about God, who loved confusion into order and gave each creature a divine image, making the world.

**All: We have heard about Jesus, a poor man whose banquet feeds the world, a healer whose wounds give life, a teacher whose wisdom traces love's order in the world, finding the divine in each of us.**

One: We have heard how Jesus died, and how, for those who loved Him, He rose again.

**All: We have heard about the Holy Spirit, who breaks the bonds of race and class, of gender and creed, to show God's love for everyone.**

One: And we have heard that love makes all things new. We come to this table asking for the bread of such blessings.

**All: In what we do here may God's Love be revealed renewing and remaking us in the image of Jesus our friend and great redeemer.**

**One:** Loving God, you have called us together as one great family and so today we join with all your people on earth praising your name in the unending heavenly hymn...

**All (Sung):** "Kingsfold Communion Set" **MV# 203**  
**O Holy, Holy, Holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to Your Grace.**  
**Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings Your praise.**  
**And blessed is the One who comes and bears Your name always!**

In the fullness of time, you sent the Chosen one, Jesus of Nazareth; The Christ, your own, to call your splintered creation together. He came preaching...He called his followers together and took bread... Now we gather at Christ's table..thanksgiving proclaiming the mystery of our faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Let us pray:** Holy One, Creator of all people and worlds, send now upon this bread and cup your life-giving Spirit. May this outpouring of the promised Spirit transfigure this thanksgiving meal, that this bread and cup may become for us a bond, binding us to you and to

one another. That we may be one body and one spirit in Christ.  
**Amen.**

**The Peace:**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

**Fraction and Pouring**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Concluding Prayer:**

One: Friends, we are now one: we are one with each other, one with the church universal, one with Christ, and so as one let us pray together our concluding prayer:

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, you had once put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us, and remake us. Thanks to your life, what we have been passed, and what we shall become through you, still awaits us. On this day may the light of Christ dwell within us guiding our way in your glorious creation. Amen.**

**\*Blessing (unison):**

**We are made in the image of God,  
freed by the Son of God,  
given life and faith by the Spirit of God.**

**And so, we go now into the world as a blessed people,  
to be a blessing for others. Amen.**

**\*Extinguishing the Christ Light**

**\*Choral Benediction** "Blessing"

***Postlude***

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**This Week's Volunteers**

***Ushers:* Feb 4 Valerie B. & John Feb 11 Eleanor & Ensor**

***Screens:* Feb 4 Kevin Feb 11 Erik Feb 18 Tracy Feb 25 Kevin**

***Communion:* Feb 4 Tracy, Sandra, Kim & Jane**

## This Week's Events

<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Club</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	12:30pm	<b>Writers Circle</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	12:30pm	<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

### **Mount Royal Announcements:**

**Lunch with Friends:** Thurs., Feb. 15th @ noon. Sign up at the back of the church or in the office until Mon., Feb 12th at 12pm. We will only order the actual number of those who have signed up. If you are unable to attend the lunch after signing up, we encourage you to invite someone to take your place. The cost is \$7.00 payable at the lunch. Menu is lasagna, salad, ice cream and cookies, plus tea and coffee. The program will be a Vintage Fashion Show!

**Spaghetti Dinner:** February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. We are looking forward to an evening of friendship, fellowship and food! **Purchase your ticket** from Kim after church or from Emily during office hours. **Menu:** Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, beverages & dessert (Gluten free meal option is available) **Cost:** Adults \$20, children (12 & under) \$10 and families \$50.

**Annual Staff Review:** The M&P committee will be conducting annual staff reviews 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, suggestions, or concerns regarding our relationship with Rev. Scott and/or our lay staff, please send an email to [mandp@mountroualuc.ca](mailto: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 15, 2024.**

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