

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Congregational responses are in bold. (\*) Indicates Standing.

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**We Come Together**

**Greeting**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

One: Let us worship together as a Lenten people

**All: In this season of preparation, we remember the faith and commitment of Christ.**

One: As disciples we seek to imitate and model the way of love and acceptance.

**All: We pledge ourselves to reveal the goodness and love of the Holy One.**

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

**God of Springtime growth, we near the end of winter. Coming out of the cold we seek the flames of faith to warm and comfort us. We hunger and thirst for you. Be present to us in our worship that we might find ourselves nourished and our thirst quenched on this Lenten journey.**

**\*Hymn:** "Come Let Us Sing" **VU# 222**

**Personal Prayer:** "Come and Fill Our Hearts" X 2 **MV# 16**  
*(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)*

**Children's Learning Time:** God's Wonderful Surprise

**Children's Prayer:**

**Thank you, God, for always loving us. Help us to care for others and for our world. Teach us to be your people. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Water Flowing from the Mountain" **MV# 87**

## **We Listen to the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Reader: Caroline G.**

God of signs and wonders, we come to your Word once more, seeking new understanding and the life it brings. May Your Spirit be with us in the reading of this Word, opening our hearts and minds to Your Love present with us. **Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson: John 4:5-42**

**Response:** One: This is the Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God for this Holy Word.**

**Sermon** "Quenching Thirst"

**Anthem** "As the Deer Pants for the Water"

**Prayers of the People**

## **We Respond to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

God's love for us is overwhelming: in the midst of our complaining, God pours out abundant water for us. Now we respond in kind, giving what we can for the work of God's people. May we and our gifts be used to share living water with others.

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

**O God of life and truth, you have gifted us with the discipline of giving, so that we might truly celebrate with thanksgiving. Bless the work of your church, and these gifts of money, time and talent. Continue to lead us, that we may remain always alive in the joy of your holy work. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Spirit God, Be Our Breath"

**MV#150**

**\*Extinguishing our Lenten Light**

One: As we extinguish this third light of Lent, we do so knowing that we are worthy of the Living Water to quench our thirst.

### ***Closing Prayer:***

**Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to quench our thirst with your Living Water. Open our hearts to Your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in You as we follow where You lead. Amen.**

***\*Choral Benediction*** 'Lenten Response: May We Bring Hope''

### ***Postlude***

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**Screen operators for the coming weeks:**

**Mar 12** Tracy **Mar 19** Stephen **Mar 26** Erik

**Ushers for the coming weeks:**

**Mar 12** Bill R. & John **Mar 19** Kim & Kevin

### **This Week's Events**

<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	11:30am	<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Worship Committee</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Group</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
	11:30am	<b>UCW</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
	1:30pm	<b>Book Study</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Church Council</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	12:00pm	<b>Lunch with Friends</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	10:30am	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	11:30am	<b>Chili &amp; Soup Contest</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

**Vacation Notice** - Please note that Rev. Scott Stuart will be on vacation from March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Book Study:** "Building God's Beloved Community". Join us on Tues. March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm for the next book study.

**Lunch with friends** - Thurs, March 16<sup>th</sup> @ noon. Sign up at the back of the church or in the office until Mon., March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1pm! 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 ham and scalloped potatoes, plus dessert, tea and coffee. Entertainment is John Foster and Irish Music.

**Mount Royal's Annual General Meeting** will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Report will be emailed to you before the meeting. **Limited printed copies of Annual report available on Sun, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let Emily know if you require one.**

**Chilli/Soup Contest** – Join us right after the Annual Meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> for a fun and delicious Free Will Offering Fundraiser! Stay tuned for more details.

**Mount Royal UCW** regular monthly meeting Tuesday, March 14 at 11:30 am in the board room.

**World Day of Prayer** service 2023 available at <https://wicc.org>

**Chignecto 2022 Annual Meeting** with memorial service – "Finding Our Way" Saturday, March 25 from 9:30 until 3 at the UC Regional Office Sackville

**Maritime UCW Annual Meeting:** Visions United Church, Joyce Ave., Moncton April 28, 29 "Tuning In To Purpose" with Rev. Alice Finnamore. Cost \$ 45.00 with 2 meals included, registration deadline March 28.

For more information contact Ellen at 854 8620

## ***Community Events:***

**Choeur Louisbourg Concert** is being held at Mount Royal United Church on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available at the door.

**Wanted! Crafters and bakers** for a Crafts N' Cooking sale being held at Mountain View United Church on Sat, May 6, from 9am- 3 pm. To obtain a table, please call the church office at 857-4817. 6 ft tables are \$20; 8 ft tables are \$25.



*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.*

