

We Come Together

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

Introit Every Morning is Easter Morning

Greeting

Lighting the Christ Candle

Land Acknowledgement:

As we gather to celebrate in the new light of Easter, we continue the work of reconciliation, acknowledging that the land upon which we gather today is the traditional and unceded land of the Wabanaki people. In this region, they are the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. Here, may the risen Christ continue to guide us as we seek healing and peace with all Indigenous siblings.

Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: This day is not like any other day.

All: Today, we slow down.

Today, we take it all in.

Today, we rest in good news.

One: This day is not like any other day.

All: Today, we are singing.

Today, we are full to the brim.

Today, joy cannot be contained.

One: This day is not like any other day.

All: Today, the stone is rolled away.

Today, the women see the empty grave.

Today, we know—death does not win.

One: This day is not like any other day.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

Holy One, we so often long for more. We want more than the hamster wheel life of to-do lists and errands, meal

prep and alarm clocks. We want more than certainty that drowns out curiosity. We want more than fear that leads to violence. We want a life that is teeming with hallelujahs. We want a life overcrowded with hope. We want a life congested with good news. We want a life bursting with laughter. On this Easter morning, clear space in our minds to hear you clearly. Speak to us as only you can. It's what we long for. We long for You, our risen, living God. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" **VU# 155**

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

We Listen to the Word

Children's Time

Children's Time Prayer:

Thank you for new life, dear God, that which Jesus brings! Today, we celebrate with Him, and with our voices sing. Help us, like the women, to spread this news far and wide, so that all the world can know, that love and joy are alive! Amen.

***Hymn:** "Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah" **MV# 121**

Prayer for Understanding

Reader: Debbie

God of Light, Your Love for us is without limit, reaching beyond our wildest imaginations. As we receive your Word this day, let Your Spirit bless us and our understanding. Allow your Word to so guide our lives that the light of this Easter Sunday shines through our living. In the name of our Risen friend, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Luke 24: 1-12

Scripture Response:

One: This is the Gospel, the Good News of our friend Jesus.

All: **Light for our lives and love for our living.**

Sermon "An Expansive Life"

Anthem "Sweet The Morning"

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

As we celebrate the Risen Christ among us, we come, grateful for all God's good gifts. In response to God's deep love for one and all, we make our offerings now, that the Love of Christ be known and experienced in our hearts, community, and our world.

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

O God, our refuge, and our strength, we rejoice that You are our chosen portion, You are the cup that overflows with Grace. As we celebrate your Easter miracle of bringing life out of death, we express our gratitude and joy. Bless the gifts we offer this day, that they bring light and new life to a world that so often clings to darkness. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

Communion Anthem: "One Bread, One Body" **VU#467**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table:

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Scripture tells us that on that Easter morning, the women went to the tomb and found it empty. They returned to the disciples and told them what they had heard and seen, but Peter was the only disciple to believe them. The text says, "Peter got up and ran to the tomb.".....

Let us Pray...

God of the garden,

God of new life,

God of the here and now,
where do we begin?
Our hearts are full to the brim with gratitude,
hope, fear, doubt, dreams, and belief....

...Gather us up into your expansive love. Until that promised day,
we will continue to sing your praise:

All (Sung) 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 repentance and forgiveness of sins and to those who responded, he announced them joint heirs of eternal love with him. When the stubborn forces of darkness threatened to bring his life to an end, He called his followers together and took bread...
(Fraction and Pouring)

Now we gather at Christ's table to remember and to share in this feast of love. In remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving proclaiming the mystery of our faith:

All (Sung) MV#204: Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died and 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.

All (Sung) MV#205: Amen, amen O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!

The Peace:

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

All: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

My faith family, in and through Christ, these are not the gifts of The United Church of Canada, nor do they belong to the Mount Royal Community of Faith; these are the gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ and all whose lives are open to Him are welcomed at this table.

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 is past, and what we shall become through You, still awaits us. On this day, remind us that Your Light dwells within us, guiding our way in Your glorious creation. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Thine Is the Glory" **VU# 173**

Benediction: (*unison*)

One: From darkness and despair, we find hope and joy.

All: Christ is risen! We go forth in joy!

One: From doubt and betrayal, we find trust and faith.

All: Christ is risen! We go forth in faith!

One: From suffering and death, we find healing and life.

All: Christ is risen! We go forth to live!

One: Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Christ's Light carries on...

***Choral Benediction** "This is the Day..." **VU#175**

Postlude

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This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Rev. Ronald Maund by Ilene Maund and family.

Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Apr 9 Erik **Apr 16** Stephen **Apr 23** Erik **Apr 30** Elizabeth

Ushers for the coming weeks:

Apr 9 Kim & Kevin **Apr 16** Terry & Karen **Apr 23** Bill S. & John B.

This Week's Events

Monday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Kitchen
	11:30	UCW Meeting	Boardroom
Wednesday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Friday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall

(Scouts and Guides meet in the church hall Mon – Thurs evenings)

Please note - Office Closed on Monday, April 10th all day.

Grocery Gift Cards are available! Please contact the office at 855-5771 or office@mountroyaluc.ca (or simply stop by during open office hours) to purchase one today!

UCW meets Tuesday, April 11 at 11:30 in the Board Room.

Lunch with Friends Thurs., April. 20th @ noon. Sign up at the back of the church or in the office until April 17th at 1pm! The cost is \$7.00 payable at the lunch. Menu is Mac & Cheese, plus dessert, tea and coffee.

Rummage Sale: Apr 21st 5:30 – 8pm & Apr 22nd 8-11am

Are you doing some spring cleaning and would like to donate items?? Please help spread the word to your friends and neighbours to make this our most successful sale yet! Donations can be dropped off after church on Apr 16th or Mon 17th – Thurs 20th from 9am-1:30pm.

Pancake Breakfast April 29th – Join us for this delicious breakfast fundraiser! \$10 a person or \$35 a family.

Visioning Report Group Discussion May 6th @ 9am –12pm.

Rev. Kendall Harrison will facilitate this important discussion focused on the recommendations in the Visioning Report. Need a copy of the report (it was included in the 2022 Annual Report)? Contact Emily in the office. Lunch will follow the discussion.

A Night of Music May 13th @ 7pm – Bring your friends and family to enjoy an evening of music with MRUC choir, Visions United choir as well as guest musicians. Free will offering.

Community Events:

Silent Auction & Desert Extravaganza, St. John's United Church, April 13 & 14th: Call (506) 858-8289 for times and details.

1st Jones Lake Scouting: Try your first 2 meetings for FREE! ALL Youth Ages 5 - 17 are welcome! Programs Offered: **Beavers** (Ages 5 – 7) • **Cubs** (Ages 8 – 10) • **Scouts** (Ages 11 – 14) • **Venturers** (Ages 14 – 17). More info call/text Daniel @ 864-0028.

Riversong Concert "Spring Mix" Sunday, April 23rd at 3pm at MRUC. Tickets are \$15 children under 12 are free. Available at Cover to Cover Books in Riverview, from Riversong members, or at the door. For more information visit [Facebook.com/RiversongNB](https://www.facebook.com/RiversongNB)

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.

