



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."

December 3rd, 2023 – Advent 1

(* indicates standing)

Congregational responses in bold.

We Come Together

Hymn Sing ... (*This is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music as we choose and sing our most beloved hymns of praise this Advent season*)

Greeting

Land Acknowledgement:

Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting:

One: How does a weary world hope?

All: In sharing stories of hope,

One: in offering small acts of kindness,

All: in believing we can make a difference,

One: in loving neighbor and stranger,

All: in joining Christ at manger.

One: How does a weary world hope?

All: with God's help, in worship and praise!

(Lighting the Hope Candle)

Candle Lighting Hymn: "Look to the Light"

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, as we enter this new season of Advent, we carry with us both a sense of weariness and of hope. Allow us the space to hold Your Hope as gift, and our weariness as a reminder: that our spirits are restless until we reach Your manger, finding among the hay stillness, wholeness, and renewal. In this season of waiting, be with us as we wait for the advent of something new, shining with hope and replacing a weary world with renewed hearts. In the precious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1,3,5,7) VU# 1**

Personal Prayer: "Hope Is a Star" vs. 1

VU# 7

We Listen to the Word

Children's Time

Children's Time Prayer: (repeat after me)

We come to You, in hope, dear God, because it helps us grow. Your love, and peace and joy and light are all gifts that we know. Thank you that hope guides us, and brings us close to you. Let hope be part of who we are, of all we say and do. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Jesus Loves Me"

VU# 365

Prayer for Understanding

Reader: Bill S.

Scripture Lesson:

Gospel: Luke 1: 5-25

Response:

One: This is the Word of God,

All: **Hope for a weary world.**

Sermon "Hope In a Weary World"

Anthem "The Colors of Winter"

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn:** "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

VU# 18

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

***Sung Dedication:**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

VU# 541

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

Holy One, it is in gratitude for Your gift of Hope we make the offerings of our hearts and hands this day. May they be acceptable in Your sight and used by Your Spirit restoring hope within our weary world. Bless both the giver and receiver as we journey to the side of Christ's manger. Amen.

***Hymn:** "People, Look East"

VU# 9

*Blessing:

As we ready ourselves to leave this place of sanctuary: May the Love of God go with you, the Friendship of Jesus, our Light, guide you, and the Holy Spirit grant you a renewed hope within this Advent season. **Amen.**

*The Light of Hope Goes with Us

*Choral Benediction "Christmas Wish"

Postlude

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*This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
James Skerry, Dec. 3, 1927-July 27, 1975, by his
daughter Cathy Elderkin.*

Screen operators: Dec 3 Tracy Dec 10 Erik Dec 17 Tracy
Ushers: Dec 3 Marlene & John Dec 10 Sandra & Gil

This Week's Events

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

Mount Royal Announcements:

Grocery Cards are Here! This is an excellent way to support your church and one of our major fundraisers. Please buy a card from Terry after church or stop by the office to purchase during the week. They make great Christmas gifts!

Call for a Nursery/Children's Room Clean up volunteer!

Do you enjoy organising and tidying up? This is for you! We are looking for a volunteer who can take on the (one time!) task of cleaning up the nursery room downstairs. Please reach out to Emily for more details.

Advent Donations: This year we are inviting you to **donate winter items** to share with community members in need this Advent season.

The following are suggested items: Winter hats, mittens/gloves, socks, handwarmers, underwear (mens & ladies, no XL please), sweatshirts/sweatpants, individually packaged snacks (juice boxes, granola bars etc), & deodorant/personal hygiene items. Please place items in **the basket** at the back of the church on any Sunday before Christmas or drop off at the office during office hours.

White Gift Sunday is December 10th. We are collecting monetary donations that will go towards purchasing gift cards that will be donated to our neighbourhood schools as well as local charities.

Christmas Carol Sing – During Advent (beginning today!) join us in the sanctuary by 10:15am for Christmas carol singing before worship.

Blue Christmas – December 20th at 7pm. A quiet service of reflection as we acknowledge that even though this is a season of celebration not all may be right in our lives as we continue to find ourselves separated by illness, grieving various losses, and still experiencing the ups and downs of what it is to be human.

You've Got Mail! Please check your mail slot at the back of the church for your copy of the 2023 Christmas Letter and if you donate by envelopes, your 2024 envelopes should also be waiting for you there!

Writers Circle meet the first Wed of the month from 12:30-2pm. Next meeting is Dec 6th. Anyone interested in writing, or the writing process is invited and welcome to join. Participants share anything they are working on. Feel free to just stop in!

Memorial Tree Bulbs: Would you like to light a bulb on the Memorial Tree to honour or say thanks to someone? Send your dedication to the office by **Dec 12th**. Suggested donation - \$5.00

Local Church Announcements:

It's TONIGHT!!! United Christmas Celebration: Join us **Sun, Dec. 3rd at 7 pm** as **United Churches** of greater Moncton (**including Mount Royal!**) gather to share our Music Ministry and Celebrate Christmas – **everyone is welcome** – St. Paul's United Church 404 Cleveland Ave in Riverview. Refreshments to follow & **donations** will be collected for our **local food banks**.

NOV 21 COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: NOMINATIONS

COMMITTEE: Change in the revised Mount Royal Handbook to now state the past chair of council becomes the following terms Chair of Nominations Committee. **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** Seven more pews have been sold to Bernice McNaughton High School. Large bush at

front corner of church has been cut back. Church of Pentecost Sunday afternoon rental is going well. They requested on Dec 10th their service begin at noon. This means our "Coffee and Conversation" will be held upstairs. Suggested to do a deep decluttering of the church in the new year. **TELLER/FUNDRAISING:** Pancake breakfast, tai chi, UCW donations, rummage sale and gift cards all continue to do well. Sobey's cards will arrive on Thursday and will hopefully sell quickly. Committee is open to any fundraising ideas. Possible hymn sing in 2024. **TRUSTEES:** Trustees will participate in a meeting to find out more about Kindred Works. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Looking into cost and service provider to update church website. **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Last Kids Korner of 2023 is Dec 17th and the first one of 2024 is Jan 14th. **Mount Royal Handbook:** Mount Royal Handbook has been distributed to council for feedback. Moved that in the Governance section of the handbook, council members are appointed for a two-year term renewable for two years. **Motion Carried. Outreach:** Moved to donate \$100 to Reconnect for Tim Hortons gift cards. **Motion Carried.** Moved to donate \$500 of Sobey's gift cards to Ste. Bernadette School, \$1300 of Sobey's gift cards to Bessborough School and \$200 of Sobey's gift cards to Hillcrest School. **Motion Carried.** Moved to donate \$1000 of Sobey's gift cards to Peter McKee food bank and \$200 of Sobey's cards to St. George's Anglican church outreach program. **Motion Carried.** **Visioning:** Small committee meeting was held recently to discuss how to move forward with the visioning report. Determined that the top priority items need someone from outside of Mount Royal to determine feasibility.

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