



# 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."

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**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Advent 2**

(\* indicates standing)

Congregational responses in bold.

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## **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 find peace?

**All: By listening for the words in-between the words,**

One: by advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor,

**All: by practicing Sabbath, and forgiving without end,**

One: by choosing Grace over hate,

**All: by opening doors, rather than closing them.**

One: How does a weary world find peace?

**All: by opening our hearts in worship and praise.**

*(Lighting the Peace Candle)*

## **Candle Lighting Hymn: "Look to the Light"**

## **Opening Prayer:**

**Loving and Gracious God, today we thank You that through Christ, we find our peace. Peace with one another, peace within ourselves and peace with You. As we continue our journey to the manger, allow us the grace to follow Mary into the weariness of our world, finding in connection with one another, Christ's Peace. Let that peace be found as we bear our hearts and outstretched arms to the world. Amen.**

**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 peace dear God, because it helps us grow. Your Hope, and Joy, Your Love and Light are all gifts that we know. Thank You that Peace guides us and brings us close to You. Let Peace be part of who we are, of all we say and do. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "There Was a Child in Galilee"

**MV# 134**

**Prayer for Understanding:**

**Reader: Esther**

**Scripture Lesson:**

**Gospel: Luke 1: 24-45**

**Response:**

**One:** This is the Word of God,

**All:** **Peace for our weary world.**

**\*Hymn:** "To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

**VU# 14**

**Sermon** "Peace in a Weary World"

**Anthem** "A Christmas Blessing"

**We Respond to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**\*Sung Dedication:**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**VU# 541**

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

**In these days of waiting, O God, as Mary grew Jesus in her womb, so grow in us a spirit of generosity. Bring to birth within us a passion for justice and peace. As we share this offering of our hearts and hands, also accept our white gifts. By Your Spirit, may they reach out and into this world, carrying comfort into worry, and healing into the weariness of our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Christ, Be Our Host" (vs. 1,2,3)

**VU# 465**

## **Service of Holy Communion**

One: Jesus was born into a world that told him right away, "There's no room for you here." Mary and Joseph were turned away from every door, so Jesus was born....

One: Jesus was always pulling up a seat, saving space, making room for people.....This is Christ's table, and all are welcome. Let us pray:

One: Holy One, in this season of Advent, we thank you for all things that spark within us moments of hope, peace.....Thank you for every ounce of beauty that marks this season as we join our voices with 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!**

One: Loving God, even in the face of remarkable joy, we still bring weary and worried hearts to you.....may our continued journey to your manger set in our heart's peace, this day and all days that follow. **Amen.**

## **Fraction and Pouring...**

One: In remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving proclaiming the mystery of our faith:

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

**One:** Let us pray. Holy One, Creator of all people and worlds...

## **The Peace:**

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

**All: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

# 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: Gracious God, having gathered at your table we have been reminded that you make room for us. You are always pulling up chairs, welcoming children, tax collectors, the outcast, and all manner of people who find themselves on the outside looking in. Help us to carry that inclusive spirit into our living for we know it is a love like yours that turns weariness into joy, and places before us your path of peace. Amen.**

**Hymn:** "Christ, Be Our Host" (vs. 4) **VU# 465**

## \*Blessing:

May the Peace of Christ that surpasses all understand move with you from this time of worship into our living, and through our living, into this world. **Amen.**

## \*Candles of Hope and Peace

**\*Choral Benediction** "Christmas Wish"

## Postlude

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<b>Screen operators:</b> Dec 10 Erik Dec 17 Tracy	
<b>Ushers:</b> Dec 10 Sandra & Gil Dec 17 Eleanor & Ensor	

## This Week's Events

<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Club</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
	11:30am	<b>UCW</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00pm	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

## **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.

**Advent Donations:** We are collecting winter items for our community members in need. 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. *Thank you to everyone for giving so generously to our community members!*

**White Gift Sunday** is today! December 10<sup>th</sup>! 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 join us in the sanctuary by 10:15am for Christmas carol singing before Sunday worship.

**Blue Christmas – December 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Envelope Contributors - You've Got Mail!** Please check your mail slot at the back of the church for your 2024 monthly offering envelopes. Don't currently have envelopes but would like some? Emily has some extras in the office, so let her know!

**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

**Clergy:** The Rev. Scott Stuart, BA, MDiv. **Cell:** 506-295-8089

**Music Ministry:** France Henriques **Custodian:** Matt Wilson

**Office Administrator:** Emily Smith 506-855-5771

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