



# 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Christmas Eve 7:00pm**

(\* 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: Listen!

**All: The air is still.**

One: Listen!

**All: The stars are shining brightly.**

One: Listen!

**All: In the distance we hear the murmur of voices.**

One: Listen!

**All: We hear the cry of a child.**

One: Christ is born, God is with us.

**All: Let us worship together at the side of the manger!**

*(Lighting the Love and Christ Candles)*

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

**Opening Prayer:**

**Holy One, we lift our voices in praise and adoration of Your presence in our lives and in the world. We sing out in joy and thanksgiving for all you have given us, for Your unfailing Love and Compassion. We shout to the rooftops,**

echoing the delight and wonder of Your Christmas promise: that to us, a Savior is born, for us a Child is given. Jesus, the Son of God, light of all lights, love of all hearts, and holy is His name. Hallelujah our Light has been born! Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" **VU# 35**

**We Listen to the Word**

**Gabriel Comes to Mary**

**Scripture:** Luke 1: 26-38

**\*Hymn:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" **VU# 44**

**Reflection**

**The Birth of Jesus**

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 1-7

**\*Hymn:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" **VU#48**

**Reflection**

**The Shepherds**

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 8-20

**\*Hymn:** "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" **VU# 75**

**Reflection**

**Anthem:** "Do You Have Room" **Cathy Elderkin**

**Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** "Still, Still, Still" **VU# 47**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**\*Sung Dedication:**  
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" **VU# 541**

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

**Loving and Gracious God, we give thanks for all the ways that You have blessed our lives. In gratitude, we offer our gifts this evening, praying they bring Hope to any who are suffering, spreading Joy through all Your children, and**

**fostering Peace within our hearts and world. May Your Light, born to us this night, be carried in our lives out and into all of creation. Amen.**

**\*Blessing:**

May the Love of God be with you, the friendship of Christ be born anew within you, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit grant your hearts peace on this holy night. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Silent Night, Holy Night"

**VU# 67**

***As we part this evening the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Christ continue to burn brightly dispelling the darkness around them and holding us in the care and comfort of Christ...***

**Postlude**

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***Ushers:*** Dec 24 Kim & Kevin Dec 31 Bill S. & John B.

***Screens:*** Dec 24 Erik Dec 31 Tracy

**This Week's Events**

<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Club</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
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\*Please note: Office is closed on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

**Mount Royal Announcements:**

**Grocery Card Fundraiser!** We still have a few cards available for purchase during regular office hours.

**Kids Korner:** Our Sunday children's program will start back up on January 14<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, there are pew packs at the back of the church with quiet activities for young people to use during the service.

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

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

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