



# Mount Royal United Church

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"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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Joy**

Congregational responses in bold.

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## **We Come Together**

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

**Introit** "Light of Light"

**Greeting**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace:**

One: Arise and celebrate, good news of deep joy is here!

**All: The warm glow of the Divine lightens our hearts.**

One: We are together, not alone. We gather on this third Sunday in Advent with gratitude and overflowing generosity, blessed by our gracious God. As a blessed people we are witness to joy.

**We Listen** (*Jennifer Aikman-Smith*)

**Hymn:** "We Light this Candle"

**Opening Prayer:**

**God who lights up life give us joyful, generous, and courageous hearts. As we lean on your love may your joy well up in us so that our joy may overflow and flourish,**

witnessing to a life of constant gratitude, full of grace, humor, and goodness. In Jesus joyful name we pray, Amen.

**Hymn:** "People Look East" **VU#9**

**Personal Prayer** "Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark" x2 **VU#19**  
*(concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)*

**We Listen to the Word**

**Learning Time Lesson**

**Learning Time Prayer**

**We shout to you, in Joy, dear God, because we want to see your light. It shines in all the darkness so that everything may be bright. Let that light shine wholly, in all we say and do, that it might shine today, tomorrow and in every moment too, Amen.**

**Hymn:** "O Ancient Love" **VU#17**

**Prayer for Understanding**

**Reader:** Erik Gingles

Holy Spirit come again. As long ago you inspired, astonished, and challenged the people, come to us now: to fill our ears with the sound of your breath, to fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence, and to fill our hearts with your love poured out through your Word this day. In Jesus precious name we pray, Amen.

**Scripture Reading: Luke 3: 7-18**

**One:** This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Praise be to you our Lord Jesus.**

**Sermon** "An Interview With..."

**Anthem** "How Quietly" by Joel Raney

**Pastoral Prayer**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Friends, as we continue our journey to the manger the words of Isaiah echo in our hearts, "for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given". As we prepare our lives to receive such an amazing gift, we offer our own gifts to God now praying they be taken and used that joy be known in the hearts of one and all.

**Offertory Prayer** (unison)

**God of justice, God of grace, we pray that through this offering we will continue growing as your people. Through these gifts and our lives, may we help prepare the way of the Lord who comes offering us the gifts of hope, peace, joy and Love, Amen.**

**Hymn:** "Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light" x2 **MV#211**

**Blessing:** Go now and allow joy to embrace your heart  
knowing all along: that the Grace of God surrounds you,  
the Love of Jesus walks besides you and the Light of the  
Holy Spirit guides you now and, in your week, to come. **Amen.**

***Our candles of Hope, Peace and Joy  
continue to lighten our way...***

**Postlude**

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**Ministers:** The Gathered Community  
**Clergy:** The Rev. Scott Stuart, BA, MDiv.  
**Music Ministry:** France Henriques  
**Office Administrator:** Tracy Parrott  
**Custodian:** Wayne Surette  
**Church Office:** 855-5771  
**Kitchen Phone & Fax:** 855-7180  
**Rev Scott Stuart's cell:** 506-295-5918

**Office e-mail:** [office@mountroyaluc.ca](mailto:office@mountroyaluc.ca)  
**Mount Royal website:** [www.mountroyaluc.ca](http://www.mountroyaluc.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday, 9am - 3pm

**Screen operators for the coming weeks:**

**Dec 12** – Elizabeth, **Dec 19** – Erik, **Dec 24** – Debbie, **Jan 2** – Esther

**Sound/Prompter operators for the coming weeks:**

**Dec 12** – Tracy, **Dec 19** – Stephen, **Dec 24** – Tracy, **Jan 2** –Stephen

### **This Weeks Events**

<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	6:30pm	Cubs	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Finance Committee	Boardroom
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	Craft Group	Church Hall
	11:30am	UCW meeting	Church Hall
	1:00pm	Art Club	Church Hall
	6:30pm	Beavers	Church Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00am	Tai Chi	Church Hall

### **Announcements**

**Carol Sing: today, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00pm. Based on the weather forecast, the Carol Sing will be held in the sanctuary. All are welcome. Masks and proof of double vaccination are required. COVID restrictions permitting, singing with masks will be encouraged. Come join us in person to sing your favourite carols or join us online.

**Grocery gift cards** are now available. Please contact Terry Foreman at 388-4887 or [grocerycards@mountroyaluc.ca](mailto:grocerycards@mountroyaluc.ca) or the office at 855-5771 or [office@mountroyaluc.ca](mailto:office@mountroyaluc.ca) to place your orders. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser.

**Memorial Tree Bulbs** - You can request a bulb be lit on the outdoor tree celebrating the life of a loved one; acknowledging a person you are thankful for or even celebrating a special life event. Please contact the office at [officeadmin@mountroyaluc.ca](mailto:officeadmin@mountroyaluc.ca) or 855-5771 or and provide the specifics of the person or event you wish to honour. The cost is \$5 per celebration. Dedications will be printed in the bulletin on Dec 19.

On Sat., **Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00pm our **Blue Christmas service** will be streamed online. This is 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 COVID-19, grieve various losses, and still experience the ups and downs of what it is to be human. Please have a candle ready to light.

**Thank you** very much for your very generous White Gift donations. Grocery gift cards, cash and donations of personal items will be given to Bessborough and Hillcrest Schools, Community Friends of St George's Anglican Church and to Reconnect.