



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."

September 26th, 2021

Congregational responses in bold.

We Come Together

Prelude

Greeting

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: In caring and compassion,

All: God's arms hold us when we struggle.

One: With ideas and inspiration,

All: God encourages us to grow and thrive.

One: God calls us as partners in this world,

All: called to build joy, hope and justice.

One: Let us join our hearts and minds together as we
worship!

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Loving God, you have placed before us a dream, a vision of a better way and a better life. Our hearts are restless for that vision to become a reality. When we are discouraged grant us strength, when we are puzzled grant us clarity, and may our ministry and worship this day work to raise up, hold and share your goodness with one and all. In Jesus' name, our brother and great friend, we pray, Amen.

Hymn:

"Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV#12

Personal Prayer: "O God We Call" **VU#411**
(concluded as we pray together our family prayer)

We Listen to the Word

Learning Time Lesson

Learning Time Prayer:

God, we try to love your world as you would have us do: to see all of creation as good and sacred too. Sometimes our view gets clouded, and we lose our way. Help us to say we're sorry and to mean what we say. Let Jesus be our leader, so that we might know your heart—that your Spirit brings us courage to work together, not apart. Amen.

Hymn: "Deep in Our Hearts" **MV#154**

Prayer for Understanding

Reader: Debbie Maund

Let us pray: Loving God, as we enter into the mystery of your life alive within our own, we pray this day that your Word would reveal to us signs of love, hope, and joy in our daily lives. Enable within us the courage to take those gifts and share them with the world you so love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Scripture Reading: Mark 3: 31-35

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ

All: Praise be to you our Lord Jesus.

Sermon "Faith is a Verb, Love is an Action Word"

Anthem "Turnstiles & Crooked Miles" Rev Catherine Stuart

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

God is present in the mountains and the deserts, the cities and the countryside, in places of darkness and places of peace. God laughs with us, mourns with us, and calls us to work for justice. God's love is with us every day of our lives and we share now in our morning offering, that this deep love may be felt in all creation.

Offertory Prayer (unison):

God of countless surprises, once again we stand before you offering a portion of our gifts. May these gifts be transformed into acts of kindness, expressions of solidarity, and deeds of compassion. As we share these offerings, we also commit ourselves anew to the courageous task of being your witness here in this world; offering our very-selves for Your ministry. Amen

Hymn: "My Love Colours Outside the Lines" **MV#138**

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Blessing (unison):

**May the God of Love attend us
The Spirit of truth guide us
And the Son of all Grace surround us now
And in our week ahead.**

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle

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
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Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9am - 3pm

The church office will be **closed** on Thursday, **Sep 30** in recognition of the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**.

Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Sep 26 – Esther, **Oct 3** – Debbie, **Oct 10** – Erik, **Oct 17** – Elizabeth

Sound/Prompter operators for the coming weeks:

Sep 26 – Stephen, **Oct 3** – Tracy, **Oct 10** – Stephen, **Oct 17** – Tracy

This Weeks Events

Monday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Church Hall
	1:00pm	Art Club	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Movie Study	Church Hall
Wednesday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Choir practice	Sanctuary
Thursday		Office closed	Stat holiday
	6:15pm	Brownies	Church Hall
Friday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
Saturday	10am	Tai Chi	Church Hall

Council Highlights: CORRESPONDENCE: A request for support of the AST annual fund was received. A motion to contribute \$100 was approved. A request for baptism was received. Approval was granted.

The Finance Report for the 8 months ended August 31, 2021 was presented which shows a current operating deficit of (\$30,233) compared to (\$22,976) last year before the CEWS wage subsidy. Government wage subsidy (CEWS), of \$18,789 has been received during the year to assist with salaries and reduce the deficit to (\$11,444). The CEWS subsidy has helped to offset the reduced fund raising over the past year. A motion to contribute \$1,000 to the food bank, \$1,000 to the St. George's church breakfast program and \$500 to Harvest House was approved. A motion to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th as a statutory holiday for staff was approved.

SYSTEMS COMMITTEE: a report on the numbers of people viewing the services on the website, Facebook and in person was distributed. Our on-line services need to become more interactive to keep people at home more engaged. In order to provide a greater level of interaction more volunteers would be needed.

PASTORAL CARE: it was noted that the function of the committee is not for its seven members to visit everyone but to make sure that people are being checked on and communicated with to ensure nobody is

forgotten. Everyone should try to keep in touch with a few people and report any urgent needs to the committee.

UCW/CRAFT GROUP: UCW are collecting socks and underwear in smaller sizes to donate to St. George's church for their outreach to homeless populations.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: it would be nice to get back to more live music. (more solos, duets or trios who could socially distance).

MINISTERS REPORT: Rev Scott Stuart submitted a written report.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE: a new video surveillance camera has been purchased for the office. A report and recommendations from the Province on building accessibility was received. We can't be considered accessible without an elevator. The changes we have made to the washrooms are more of an aid to those with limited mobility. They are awaiting the results of an Energy Audit. The goal is to make the building more green and reduce our use of fossil fuels.

FUNDRAISING/ TRUSTEES: the rummage sale would not be feasible at this time. The gift card fundraiser is starting again this week. Another batch will be purchased in December.

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: families will be polled about their willingness to return their children to a BLAST program. Catherine Stuart is willing to teach and look at possible programs and is looking for two other teachers so that they could work on a rotation basis.

COVID related discussion: The latest Government mandates are that all indoor gatherings require mask-wearing.

Motions were approved to:

1. block off every 2nd pew rather than every 3rd pew.
2. Require 100% of attendees to be double-vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination. No medical exemptions will be accepted.
3. Require all un-vaccinated staff members to wear a mask at all times while in the building and provide negative Covid-19 tests 3 times per week.