



# 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Advent— Joy (Home For All) Sunday**

Congregational responses are in bold.

(\* ) Indicates Standing.

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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)*

### **Greeting**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, worship and play is the unceded territory of the Wabanaki people; in this area they are they Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may the gifts of this season, hope, peace, joy and love, guide us into reconciliation with all Indigenous peoples.

### **Announcements**

### **Candle Lighting:**

One: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

Choir: Joy is hearing, "come on over, it has been too long!"

One: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

Choir: Joy is making it home when your journey has been long.

One: Joy is your dog coming to greet you at the door.

Choir: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

One: Today we light the candle of joy,

Choir: we rest in it's light, knowing we are close to home. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Hope Is a Star" Verses 1, 2 and 3.

**VU# 7**

## **Call to Worship:**

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

**All: It sings a home for all.**

One: It speaks of justice and peace.

**All: We could choose to ignore it,**

One: we could choose to silence the song.

**All: Instead, we come into this space.**

One: We let the world grow quiet and listen...

**All: a voice cries out in the wilderness; do you hear it?**

One: We hear it. In listening we worship,

**All: in listening, we hear Joy's call.**

## **Opening Prayer: (*unison*)**

**Holy One, as worship enfolds us now, we come grateful for Your gift of Joy that resonates through our lives and our living. As we worship, we pray for Your Grace to open our hearts, that we may receive this precious gift. Open our spirits that we may live it, open our bodies that we may embrace it, open our minds, that we may appreciate it. Allow our entire being to receive Your precious gift of Joy, soon born to us in a manger. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: "O Ancient Love"**

**VU#17**

**Personal Prayer: "Where Two or Three..." X 2**

**MV#14**

***(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)***

## **Children's Learning Time**

### **Children's Prayer:**

**Thank you, God, for Your gift of joy, and for all the ways it grows. For the people and places the light of joy reaches, for the thoughts and dreams it shows. Thank you that we can spread Your joy, that joins with hope and peace, so that all the world can feel Your love, each day may joy increase. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:**

**"A Candle Is Burning"**

**VU#6**

## **We Listen to the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Reader: Esther**

Holy One, You speak to us in scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and strangers, in dreams and songs. You are speaking all the time, and our hearts long for every word. In this moment, still our hearts and minds, that we may hear Your still small voice speaking, calling out to us in love. **Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson: Luke 3: 1-18**

**Response:**

**One:** This is the Word of God given to us this day.

**All:** **Joy for our living, light for our path. Amen.**

**Sermon** "Slow Down"

**Anthem** "A Home for All"

**Prayers of the People**

## **We Respond to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

Out in the wilderness John preached a message that was hard for the people to hear. His message turned their world upside down, and yet still they drew closer to him asking, what can I do? These same words are spoken to the church this day and in response, we offer back to God a portion of what we have been so blessed with. We make this offering to help build a world where all are welcomed, fed, loved, and known.

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

**Loving God, You are the one who welcomes us home, who creates a space, who leaves a chair open with our name written on it. In our offering this day, we reach deep giving of our very selves, praying the world John envisioned will one day reign. Today we give in joy, praying You will take what we offer and multiply it beyond measure for our community and world. With this offering we also bring handwarmers for the homeless in our city. May those who receive these gifts be warmed in body and in soul as Your Spirit walks with them in peace. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness"

**VU#28**

**\*Our Candle of Hope, Peace and Joy remain.**

**\*Benediction:**

**May the Joy of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,  
for whom we watch and wait in the Spirit's embrace.  
Amen.**

**\*Choral Benediction** "May God's Sheltering Wings" **MV#214**

**Postlude**

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**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday, 9am – 2pm

***Screen operators for the coming weeks:***

**Dec 11** Tracy **Dec 18** Elizabeth **Dec 21** Tracy & Stephen  
**Dec 24 7pm** Erik

***Ushers for the coming weeks:***

**Dec 11** Sandra & Gill **Dec 18** Valerie B. & John B.  
**Dec 24 4pm** Katelyn & Colin **Dec 24 7pm** Jennifer & Nick

**This Week's Events: Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	2:00pm	<b>Sparks</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Group</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	11:30am	<b>UCW Meeting</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	11:30am	<b>Cider &amp; Christmas Treats</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

## ***Announcements***

**Grocery Gift Cards** - are available! Please contact the office to purchase. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser.

**Winter item collection during Advent** - We are collecting socks, mitts, handwarmers and hats to donate to Ensemble. Each Sunday is a different item: Dec. 18 – Socks. If you can't make it to the Sunday service; donations can be dropped off during regular office hours. *Together we can make a difference!*



**Thank you** very much for your White Gift donations. Items will be given to our neighbourhood schools. *Thank you for your generosity.*

**Christmas Carol Sing** – During Advent, join us by 10:15am for Christmas carol singing before worship.

**Cider & Christmas Treats – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** Please join us after the service in the church hall for some holiday cheer.

**Blue Christmas – Dec. 21 @ 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.

## Memorial Tree Dedication

### For:

Dedicated to our granddaughters Céleste & Arielle Berry

In loving memory of Allan Reid

In loving memory of Uncle Frank Skerry

In loving memory of Aunt Marie Skerry

In loving memory of Bernie Cormier

In loving memory of Grace Harris

In loving memory of Marjorie K. (Penny) Seaman

Thank you & Best Wishes for Retirement to Tracy Parrott

Welcome to Emily Smith

Thank you to Susan Fowler

In loving memory of Darryl Innes

In loving memory of Eleanor Wolf

In loving memory of Richard Wolf

In loving memory of Ronalee Wolf J

In loving memory of Margaret Wolf Y

In loving memory of Bill Dutcher

In loving memory of Heather Dutcher

In loving memory of Rev. Bill & Clair Beach

In loving memory of Gerry Christie

### By:

Val & Ron Berry

Val & Ron Berry

Cathy Elderkin

Cathy Elderkin

Cathy Elderkin

Cathy Elderkin

Bill Seaman

The Choir

The Choir

The Choir

Betsy Wolf-Innes

Betsy Wolf-Innes

Betsy Wolf-Innes

Betsy Wolf-Innes

Betsy Wolf-Innes

Shirley and Family

Shirley and Family

Kim & Kevin Gallant

Jack Christie, Kim & Kevin Gallant

## Memorial Tree Dedication

**For:**

In loving memory of Ed MacLeod

In loving memory of Jean & Fred Hurley

In loving memory of Jean & Louis Webb

In loving memory of Arthur Hurley

In loving memory of Eldon Freeman

To wish a very Merry Christmas to family and friends and the Mount Royal Community of Faith.

In memory of much-loved and missed family members: including Marion and Esther, parents – Alta and Wes, in laws -Sybil and Gerald, husband – Ian.

To extend thanks to staff throughout 2022: Scott, France, Tracy and Emily, Wayne and Matt and to members of Council and hard-working Committee volunteers.

In appreciation of the Visioning Committee for its heart felt efforts to identify a framework for vitality for the Community of Faith.

In gratitude to the Tech Team for facilitating worship delivery; communications, repairs and installations...

In loving memory of Walter McQuinn

**By:**

Joyce MacLeod

Sandra & Gil

Sandra & Gil

Sandra & Gil

Ina Freeman

Susan Fowler

Susan Fowler

Susan Fowler

Susan Fowler

Susan Fowler

Helen McQuinn