

**We Come Together**

**Greeting**

**Land Acknowledgement**

As we journey in this season of Lent, 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 the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. As we grow deeper in relationship with God through this season, may we also grow in relationship with all Indigenous peoples, seeking reconciliation and peace.

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

One: God's Reach is endless.

**All: God's Mercy is unstoppable.**

One: God's Grace is lavish.

**All: God's Love is constant.**

One: God's Wisdom is vast.

**All: God's Hope is stubborn.**

One: God's presence is here—

**All: with us, among us, moving through us.**

One: Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

**All: We are in God's house.**

One: Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

**Opening Prayer: (unison)**

**God of open doors, we often long to come home to You, to Love, and to ourselves, but we aren't always sure how to get there. We know we need You, but the distractions and noise of the world surround us. As we open ourselves to You in worship this day, we pray for You to reach into our hearts, making Yourself known, quieting all that distracts from You. Remind us Your Grace is a constant presence welcoming us home in love. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Morning Has Broken"

**VU# 409**

## **Call to Order of Annual Meeting:**

In the name of Jesus Christ, the sovereign head of the church, I call this annual meeting of the Mount Royal Community of Faith to order. May all business, which pertains to the building of God's Kingdom here in this community, be freely offered, and discussed.

## **Nomination of Chairperson and Secretary for Meeting**

**Personal Prayer:** : "Come and Fill Our Hearts" X 2 **MV# 16**  
*(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)*

## **Children's Learning Time**

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

**As much as we try to run, dear God, Your Grace is always there. No matter where we try to hide, it finds us everywhere. Thank you, Jesus, for Your Love, no matter what we do, it calls us home, and holds us close, for we are Your children too. Pour out Your Spirit on each heart, that all may know Your Grace, Your Love enfolding, Your friendship holding, all in Your embrace. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "I Have Called You by Your Name" **MV# 161**

**Motion to extend voting right to adherents (section B.3.7.2, page 60, United Church Manual**

**Adoption of Minutes from the April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 AGM**

**Business arising from the minutes**

**Correspondence**

### ***We Listen to the Word***

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Reader: Sandra**

God of signs and wonders, we come to your Word once more, seeking new understanding and the life it brings. May Your Spirit be with us in the reading of this Word, opening our hearts and minds to Your Love present with us in every space and time. **Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson:** ***Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32***

**Response: One: This is the Word of God.**

All: That welcomes us home in love.

**Sermon** "Prodigal Grace"

**Anthem** "Lavish Love, Abundant Grace"

**Prayers of the People**

**We Respond to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering / Dedication of Committee Report**

Today, Jesus tells us the story of God's ever present and abiding Grace that flows into every aspect of our living. In response to that free and abundant gift, we now offer back to God a small portion of what we have been so blessed with. Along with our gifts, we also dedicate our annual committee reports. They are the ministry of this gathered community, offered in Love, for the continued building of God's Kingdom here in this place.

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

**God of Grace, bless these gifts that we have given as expressions of our love for You and for our neighbors. May they bring closer to fulfillment Your reign of Peace and Love here in this world. Inspire us to continue to offer our gifts as expression of our hope in You. Through Jesus Christ our friend and great redeemer, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**New Business:**

- a. Presentation and adoption of Annual Reports.
- b. Report of Church Council Nominating Committee.
- c. Visioning Committee report.
- d. Presentation and adoption of Financial Reports and 2023 proposed Budget.

**Further Business:**

- a. Code of Conduct Affirmation

**Motion to Adjourn**

**\*Hymn:** "Walk with Me"

**VU# 649**

**\*Extinguishing our Lenten Light**

One: As we continue our Lenten journey we acknowledge the darkness our world so often carries with it. Even in that darkness, the light of God's Grace leads us forward.

**All: Loving God, we open our hearts to You. We invite You into our inmost being, only to find You already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and lead us into the work of being Your Church that offers justice and peace throughout this community and world. Amen.**

**\*Choral Benediction:** Lenten Response: May We Bring Hope

**Postlude**

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

**Mar 19** Stephen    **Mar 26** Erik    **Apr 2** Elizabeth

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

**Mar 19** Kim & Kevin    **Mar 26** John B. & Sue R.    **Apr 2** Sandra & Gil

**This Week's Events**

<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Group</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
	1:30pm	<b>Book Study</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	1:00pm	<b>Bridge</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

**(Scouts and Guides meet in the church hall Mon – Thurs evenings)**

**Book Study:** "Building God's Beloved Community". Join us on Tues. March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm for the next book study.

**The Ministry & Personnel Committee** will be meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023. If members or adherents have praise or concerns about our minister and/or lay staff, they may be submitted in writing by email to [mandpchair@mountroyaluc.ca](mailto:mandpchair@mountroyaluc.ca) or left in the M & P mail box by the Mount Royal Blvd entrance. Your feedback is important. All submissions are considered confidentially.

**World Day of Prayer** service 2023 available at <https://wicc.org>  
**Chignecto 2022 Annual Meeting** with memorial service – "Finding Our Way" Saturday, March 25 from 9:30 until 3 at the UC Regional Office Sackville

**Maritime UCW Annual Meeting:** Visions United Church, Joyce Ave., Moncton, April 28, 29 "Tuning In To Purpose "with Rev. Alice Finnermore. Cost \$ 45.00 with 2 meals included, registration deadline March 28. For more information contact Ellen at 854 8620

*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.*

