



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."

Dec 31st, 2023 Season of Christmas

Congregational responses are in bold.

(*) Indicates Standing.

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

Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: We proclaim the birth of our Saviour, sent to nurture and protect us: Jesus, Emmanuel, the promise that God is with us.

All: In hope, we follow.

One: We celebrate the wonder of Jesus, sent to heal and transform us: The Messiah, our heavenly Lord.

All: In awe, we follow.

One: We worship the light of the world, sent to guide us forward: Jesus, born of God, our eternal grace.

All: In faith, we follow.

One: God, lead us in this new year, into the freedom and fullness of life. Let us worship.

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

In the year gone by, in the year to come, and right at this moment, You are with us, Holy One! Thank You! For Your Guiding and Loving, for Your Teaching and Caring, for Your changing Love at work in all of us, thank you! In Your Love, You hold all creation. In Your Hope, You give new life. In Your Peace, we begin anew. So, for the year gone by, for the year to come, and for this moment right now we declare, Alleluia! Alleluia! Thank You, Holy One! Amen.

***Hymn:**

"Joy to the World"

VU# 59

Personal Prayer: "Where Two or Three..." x2 **MV#14**
(Concluding with The Lord's Prayer)

Children's Learning Time

Children's Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for all the exciting things that this new year will hold. For family and friends, for learning and growth, for chances to be bold. We don't know where this year will lead, but this we know is true: That Your Love is with us wherever we go, in all that we say and do. Amen.

***Hymn:** "What Child is This" **VU# 74**

We Listen to the Word

Prayer for Illumination **Reader: Kim**

Scripture Lessons: Luke 2: 21-38

Response:

One: This is the Word of God,

All: **light for our living,
love for our growing. Amen.**

Sermon

Anthem "The Star Still Shines" **Cathy & France**

Prayers of the People

Hymn: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" **VU# 46**

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Holy One, as we make our offering this day, we pray that You will bless them for Your mission in the world, transforming them into water for those who are thirsty, into clothing for those who are in need, into companions for those who are lonely, and into healing for those longing to be free. In our giving, transform us into agents of Your

Peace and Love woven throughout our communities and world. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Away in a Manger" **VU# 69**

***Benediction:**

May the Love of Christ that shines in you shine brightly in the world wherever you go; and may the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you, and remain with you, this day and forevermore. Amen.

***Choral Benediction** "Christmas Wish"

Postlude

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Ushers: Dec 31 Bill S. & John B. Jan 7 Howard Easton & John B.

Screens: Dec 31 Tracy Jan 7 Erik

This Week's Events

Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Club	Kitchen
Wednesday	12:30pm	Writers' Circle	Boardroom

*Please note: Office is closed on Jan. 1st.

Mount Royal Announcements:

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

Food Donation: Did you know we continue collecting non perishable food items for the Food Bank? There is a box just inside the Bessborough doors where items can be dropped off on a Sunday morning, or please stop by the office to drop items off during the week.

Writers' Circle - Wed, Jan 3rd @ 12:30pm: The writer's circle is a friendly group who meet at Mount Royal on the first Wednesday of the month. Anyone interested in writing is invited and welcome to join. We invite you to just stop in and try it out!

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

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

Office Administrator: Emily Smith 506-855-5771
office@mountroualuc.ca www. www.mountroualuc.ca