



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."

November 27th, 2022. Advent— Hope (Homesick) Sunday

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

Candle Lighting:

(Joe) We hope for a world where all are fed.

(Ellie) We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

(Maren) We hope for a world with wide open doors.

(Joe) We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

(Ellie) We hope for a world where trees grow tall, and creeks run clean.

(Maren) We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies, in the church, in Jesus' heart.

(Joe) We hope for that world.

(Ellie) We long for that world.

(Maren) We are homesick for that world.

(Joe) So today we light the candle of hope, because hope holds our hearts as we wait.

(Ellie) May this light be a reminder that we are close to home.

(Lighting the Candle of Hope – Joe, Ellie, Maren, Leo)

***Hymn:** "Hope Is a Star" Verse 1

VU# 7

Call to Worship:

One: Can one be

homesick for something

you've never known?

**All: We are homesick for a just world,
for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.**

One: Yes, we are homesick—

**All: for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for love to lead our way.**

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

All: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

One: God is here. God is still creating.

All: Let us worship our God of Hope.

Opening Prayer: *(unison)*

Holy one, as we enter the season of Advent, we carry with us both a sense of homesickness and of hope. Allow us the grace to hold both tenderly as we realize your Hope is a gift and our homesickness a reminder: that our spirits are restless until we reach the manger, that our hearts are hurting while finding a home in your heart. As we wait, allow us to move with your Spirit into the birth of a new world, full with Your Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Amen.

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" **VU#1**

Personal Prayer: "Where Two or Three..." **MV#14**
(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)

Children's Learning Time

Children's Prayer:

Thank you, God, for Your string of hope that connects us all to You. Its light is here and shows the way in all we say and do. When we feel alone or afraid, remind us to pull this string, so that we know that You are close and can help with everything. Amen.

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

We Listen to the Word

Prayer for Illumination:

Reader: Nancy B.

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. Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before. Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today. We know you are speaking, and so we are listening. **Amen**

Scripture Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3: 5-9

Luke 21: 25-36

Response:

One: This is God's Word to the church,

All: The hope of our hearts as we wait for Jesus' birth.

Sermon "God Enters a Homesick World"

Anthem "See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting"

Prayers of the People

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering:

It does not take long to see that we are not home yet. There are people who are hungry, oceans that are polluted, walls that are growing, divisions that are expanding. So, until we reach that promised day, giving what we can to make a better world matters. When we give from the deepest reaches of our hearts, we help build God's home here and now. So, it is with hopeful hearts our offerings of time, talent and treasure will be received.

Offertory Prayer: (*unison*)

Holy God, we are homesick. We long for that day that You spoke of when swords will be beaten into plowshares, when the lion will lie down with the lamb, and when justice will flow like water. Until that holy day comes, accept these

gifts, bless them and use them to build that world here. Along with our gifts, we also offer hats for those who may not have a physical home. May those who receive them be warmed in body and spirit. As we begin this season of waiting, we wait in hope, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn: "God Be with You till We Meet Again" VU#422

***Benediction:**

May God's Hope be born in our hearts, the Peace of Christ walk with us, and the Spirit of life guide us, until our hearts find their home at the side of your blessed manger. Amen.

***Our Candle of Hope remains.**

***Choral Benediction**

Postlude

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Mount Royal website: www.mountroyaluc.ca
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 2pm

Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Nov 27 Tracy **Dec 4** Stephen **Dec 11** Tracy **Dec 18** Elizabeth

Ushers for the coming weeks:

Dec 4 Eleanor & Ensor **Dec 11** Sandra & Gill

This Week's Events: Nov 28th – Dec 4th

Monday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	2:00pm	Sparks	Church Hall

Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Church Hall
Wednesday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Choir	Sanctuary
Friday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall

Announcements

Grocery Gift Cards - are now available! Please contact the office at 855-5771 or office@mountroyaluc.ca to purchase one today! Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser. These make fantastic Christmas gifts for everyone on your list!

Winter item collection during Advent - We are collecting items to donate to Ensemble. Each Sunday is a different item: Dec. 4 – Gloves, Dec. 11 – Handwarmers, 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!*



White Gift Sunday is Dec 4 – This year we are once again collecting gift cards and cash to brighten Christmas for children in our neighbourhood schools. *Thank you for your generosity.*

DID YOU KNOW? The Ministry and Personnel Committee is the only mandatory committee of the governing body of a community of faith? If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee, who will recommend action. **The next meeting of the M&P Committee is Dec 8th at 7pm. Praise or concerns? Contact Debbie at 961-4636 or mandp@mountroyaluc.ca**

Council Highlights Purpose of meeting was to establish priorities for worship when there are insufficient volunteers in the tech box; address concerns about choir sound during live singing and other tech matters. Patience requested when a service either cannot be live streamed or sound and screen are unavailable because volunteers cannot be

arranged. The finance committee will be meeting on November 29 for budget discussions and a contract for technical services be prepared.