

February 12th, 2023.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Congregational responses are in bold. (*) Indicates Standing.

We Come Together

Greeting

The Light of Christ

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. In this season of Epiphany may God's light continue guiding us as we seek reconciliation and healing with all Indigenous siblings.

Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: The Spirit is here,

All: inviting us to worship.

One: The Spirit is here,

All: in each of our lives.

One: The Spirit is here,

All: in our gathered community.

One: The Spirit is here,

**All: guiding us as we worship,
in love, in healing, and in peace.**

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

Almighty and Everlasting God, we gather in this space to praise Your name. This morning, lay aside our worries, our fears, our frustrations, our anxieties, and free us to truly worship You. Through the light of Your Spirit, allow us to know Your ways, to walk in the footsteps of Christ, and to come before You with our whole heart. As we live the life You have called us to live, may the love we share heal what is broken, in our world and in our lives, that all may be refreshed at the well of Your Grace. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" **VU# 371**

Personal Prayer: "Lord, Listen to Your..." X 2 **VU# 400**
(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)

Children's Learning Time

Children's Prayer:

We give You all our thanks dear God, for love that helps us know, that we are not alone in the choices we make; like seeds, it's with You, we grow. When our hearts feel hard or afraid, help us to know You are there. The light of Jesus will help us to see that we can always care. Your Spirit sees the best in us, even when we can't. So it's on Your path we travel God, Your love we help to plant. Amen.

***Hymn:** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" **MV# 30**

We Listen to the Word

Prayer for Illumination:

Reader: Jean

Holy One, in the reading of this Word, open our ears to hear the call of Your Son, the guidance of Your Spirit, and Your law of love written on our hearts. Reveal to us to Your calling and inspire us to offer every good gift You have given towards the building of Your Kingdom here in this place and world. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5: 21-37

Congregational Response: (Sung) "I Am Walking a Path of Peace" MV#221

Sermon "The Path of Peace"

Anthem "Jesus Took the Cup"

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering:

Today Jesus calls his disciples together offering them a way of living and being in the world that heals what is broken. He offers

us an abundance of love that overwhelms hatred with peace, darkness with light, and indifference with love. In response to this radical new way of living, we make our offerings now, praying they be taken and used to make real the new world Jesus came to build among us.

Offertory Prayer: *(unison)*

God of blessing, You feed our spirits and nurture our wounded hearts with Your healing Love. May the gifts we bring before You this day be signs of our commitment to choose the life You dream for us, as we walk in Your ways and grow united in Your Son Jesus. May the offering we share with our hurting world bring the blessings of reconciliation and peace. Amen.

***Hymn:**

“You Are My Body”

MV# 200

Service of Holy Communion

One: We have heard about God, who loved confusion into order and gave each creature a divine image, making the world.

All: We have heard about Jesus, a poor man whose banquet feeds the world, a healer whose wounds give life, a teacher whose wisdom traces love’s order in the world, finding the divine in each of us.

One: We have heard how Jesus died, and how, for those who loved Him, He rose again.

All: We have heard about the Holy Spirit, who breaks the bonds of race and class, of gender and creed, to show God’s love for everyone.

One: And we have heard that love makes all things new. We come to this table asking for the bread of such blessings.

All: In what we do here may God’s Love be revealed renewing and remaking us in the image of Christ the King.

One: Loving God, you have called us together as one great family and so today we join with all your people on earth praising your name in the unending song of faith singing...

All (Sung): O Holy, Holy, Holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to Your Grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings Your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears Your name always!

In the fullness of time, you sent the Chosen one, Jesus of Nazareth; The Christ, your own, to call your splintered creation together. He came preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins and to those who responded, he announced them joint heirs of eternal love with him. When the stubborn forces of darkness threatened to bring his life to an end, He called his followers together and took bread...

Now we gather at Christ's table to remember and to share in this feast of love. In remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving proclaiming the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Let us pray: Holy One, Creator of all people and worlds, send now upon this bread and cup your life-giving Spirit. May this outpouring of the promised Spirit transfigure this thanksgiving meal, that this bread and cup may become for us a bond, binding us to you and to one another. That we may be one body and one spirit in Christ.

Amen.

The Peace:

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Fraction and Pouring:

My faith family, in and through Christ, these are not the gifts of The United Church of Canada, nor do they belong to the Mount Royal Community of Faith; these are the gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ and all whose lives are open to Him are welcomed at this table.

Distribution of the Elements

Concluding Prayer:

One: Friends, we are now one: we are one with each other, one with the church universal, one with Christ, and so as one let us pray together our concluding prayer:

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you had once put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us, and remake us. Thanks to your life, what we have been passed, and what we shall become through you, still awaits us. On this day may the light of Christ dwell within us guiding our way in your glorious creation. Amen.

*Benediction:

Having been nourished at the table of Jesus, we leave this place sharing the Love we have experienced and the Light that continues to guide us. We go out to live as heralds of Christ's great Peace this day and in everyday to come. Amen.

***Extinguishing of the Christ Light**

***Choral Benediction** "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" **MV#212**

Postlude

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Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Feb 12 Tracy **Feb 19** Stephen **Feb 26** Erik

Ushers for the coming weeks:

Feb 12 Susan R. & John B. **Feb 19** Val B. & John B.

This Week's Events

Monday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	2:00pm	Sparks	Church Hall
	6:30pm	Cubs	Church Hall
Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Church Hall
	11:30am	UCW Meeting	Board Room
	6:30pm	Beavers	Church Hall
Wednesday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
	7:00pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thursday	12:00pm	Lunch with Friends	Church Hall
Friday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall

Lunch With Friends: Thurs., Feb. 16th @ noon. Sign up at the back of the church or in the office until Mon., Feb 13th at 1pm! We will only order the actual number of those who have signed up. If you are unable to attend the lunch after signing up, we encourage you to invite someone to take your place. The cost is \$7.00 payable at the lunch. Menu is lasagna, plus dessert, tea and coffee. The program will be a speaker from Hospice Moncton.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Feb 21st at 5pm- 6:30pm
Join your church family for a buffet style pancake supper with pancakes, beans, coffee, tea, juice and maple syrup (of course). \$5 per person and/or good will offering. A great way to '*skip the dishes*' and have a little fellowship.

Ash Wednesday Service: Feb 22nd at 7:00pm - Rev. Stuart will lead a service to mark the beginning of the season of Lent, the 40 days before Easter.

Kids Korner: Are you a young person who likes to have fun and learn about the Bible? Join us for children's programming every other week: **Feb:** 12 & 26 **March:** 12 & 26 **Apr:** 9 & 23. Alternate weeks, explore our kid's korner pew packs in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Syria and Turkey:

God,

In the face of destruction

that tears down homes and threatens life,

we pray that your deep abiding love

be felt by:

those who are grieving,

those who fear for themselves and their communities,

those who are struggling; and,

those who are offering aid.

May they continue to be strengthened by your Spirit.

May we extend our hearts in prayer.

Amen



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.

