

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Congregational responses are in bold.

(\* ) Indicates Standing.

---

**We Come Together**

**Prelude**

**\*Introit** "We Praise You, O God" **VU# 218**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

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

**Loving God, as we enter this time of worship, our spirits long for Your Spirit, and our hearts cry out to beat in unison with Yours. As we are challenged in this time, help us to embrace that challenge. As we are surprised by Grace, help us to embrace that Grace; and as we continue to walk with You, may our footsteps find their cadence with Yours so that we may walk side-by-side with Christ on this road. Be with us now, bless us on this road, and allow us the trust to follow wherever Your Son leads. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Be Thou My Vision" **VU# 642**

**Personal Prayer:** "Come and Fill Our Hearts" x2 **MV#16**  
**(Concluding with The Lord's Prayer)**

**Children's Learning Time**

**Children's Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** "Spirit, Open My Heart" **MV# 79**

**We Listen to the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination:** **Reader: Kim**

**Scripture Lesson:**

**Psalm 107:** Part One with refrain (VU pg.831)

**Gospel:** Matthew 16: 13-23

**Response**

**Sermon** "It Doesn't Make Any Sense"

**Anthem** "Peace"

# Prayers of the People

**\*Hymn:** "O God, How We Have Wandered" **VU# 112**

## **We Respond to the Word**

### Invitation to the Offering

**\*Sung Dedication:**  
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" **VU# 541**

### Offertory Prayer: *(unison)*

**Holy One, all that we have comes from You. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to You only what You have so graciously given. Use these gifts in such a way that they would bring light to those in darkness and hope for those who have none. In the name of Jesus, our friend and great redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Giver of the Perfect Gift" **VU# 116**

### **\*Blessing:**

**May the God of Hope walk with you,  
the Grace of our friend Jesus the Christ keep you,  
and the Light of the Holy Spirit guide you,  
this day, and each day, in the week to come. Amen.**

### **\*Extinguishing of the Lenten Light**

**\*Choral Benediction** "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

### **Postlude**

*Music & words reprinted under ONE LICENSE – A- 621976 All rights reserved.*

## **This Week's Volunteers**

<b>Ushers:</b> Mar 3 Howard & John	<b>Mar 10</b> Sue R & John
<b>Screens:</b> Mar 3 Erik	<b>Mar 10</b> Tracy <b>Mar 17</b> Kevin

<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Club</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	12:30pm	<b>Writer's Circle</b>	<b>Boardroom</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00pm	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

## Mount Royal Announcements:

**Notice of Mount Royal's Annual Meeting:** Meeting will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. The 2023 Annual Report will be emailed out by March 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like a printed hard copy of the report, please contact the office. Printed copies of the financials and the nominating report will be available **for all attendees** at the meeting.

**Rev. Scott** is away from March 4 – 11<sup>th</sup>. For Pastoral care **emergencies** please contact the office during office hours or Rev. Lloyd Bruce (506-940-1151) outside of these hours. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> there is no coverage.

## Local Church Events:

**"Greater Still"** Music event **March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm** at Holy Family Church. Tickets \$10. This gospel music event is presented by the Holy Family Seniors Club and tickets can be purchased at the door or from Annie.

**Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Highlights:** Rev. Scott chaired the meeting. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Membership transfer request received from Stephen Stuart. Motion Carried. **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** Joe shared a preliminary draft of the 2024 Budget. He explained that we are in a similar boat financially as previous years. In 2023 we were fortunate to have the grants cover most costs. Expenses are generally fixed so it is hard to find money within what we currently have. We need to find ways of generating more revenue. Less money was spent on tech than anticipated in 2023. Declining membership is a concern. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Two quotes received for the website but no decision has been made yet. **VISIONING:** *Increased use of the building:* Kindred works idea will not work for Mount Royal due to a number of factors but the meeting with Kindred Works representative was well presented and the employee volunteered to continue consulting with the church at no current cost. She offered ideas to increase building use. Ex: better signage for what is going on in the church, better use of the space we have and better marketing of it, clearing out the clutter. *Accessibility:* Major accessibility improvements are highly unlikely without grants. *Partnerships:* it's been valuable meeting regularly with other local United Churches. *Simplified Governance:* other forms of governance will be explored. *Reducing Carbon Emissions:* longer-term goal is to stop using propane entirely. **OTHER BUSINESS:** *Self Assessment:* feedback requested from council on the process of the regional self assessment. *Nominating Committee:* There are critical vacancies and time is passing quickly. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** March 20, 2024