



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."

July 2nd, 2023 – (Fifth Sunday After Pentecost)

* indicates standing

Congregational responses in bold.

We Come Together

Prelude... (*this is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music and prepare our hearts for worship*)

Greeting

Lighting the Christ Candle

Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: Come, friends in Christ, let us worship the one whose living gives us life.

All: We come to embrace the God of Grace.

One: Come, friends in Christ, let us worship the one who calls us by name:

All: creating a space for one and all,

One: reaching out to the lost and the lonely,

All: holding the diversity of all creation in love.

One: Come, friends in Christ, as we worship now in joy!

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

God, we gather this morning from our own life journeys greeting this new day open to all the potential it holds. As we gather, we release the tensions of the week, pushing aside all that keeps us from being fully present in this time together. We welcome You into our midst. May our worship be so infused with the presence of Your Spirit that we leave changed, challenged, and open to each new

possibility you lay before us. In the name of our friend Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" **VU# 395**

Personal Prayer: "O God We Call" X 2 **VU# 411**
(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)

We Listen to the Word

Children's Time

Children's Time Prayer: *(Repeat After Me)*

Thank you God for all the ways you help us to learn and grow. For times of laughter, tears and joy and for all that we need to know. Sometimes when things don't go our way, we need your guidance more. We need to say we're sorry and be better than before. Pour out Your Spirit upon us so that we can share and heal, and grow in the ways of Jesus that make Your love real. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Draw the Circle Wide" **MV#145**

Prayer for Understanding: **Reader: Fay**

Give us, O God, the will to receive again the stories of scripture, well-worn, well-learned but always full of new and rich meaning. Give us not only ears to hear the story but hearts to understand. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Lessons:

Psalm: **Psalm 133 (below)**

One: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

All: **It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

One: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

Gospel: Matthew 15: 10-28

Response:

One: This is the living Word,

All: which opens us to the fullness of living.

Sermon "Right, Wrong, and The Law of Love"

Anthem "Try a Little Kindness"

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn:** "She Comes Sailing on the Wind"

VU#380

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

We gather this morning, O God, amid such an abundance of blessing. All around us, we experience You at work. Help us to live in a state of gratitude, especially in those times when things go wrong, times when we are most tempted to focus on all that is wrong instead of all that is well and good. As we pause now to present our offering, inspire us, and move us closer to a true appreciation of Your Grace, alive and at work in our lives. Amen.

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

VU# 422

Benediction: (unison)

We leave this place to encounter the unknown, attentive to the hints of the holy, in glances and averted eyes, smiles and frowns, restful hands, and shaky hands, laughing and weeping, leaving and coming back. May the God of all hold us each in unity with the great diversity of life this day and always. Amen.

Extinguishing of the Christ Light

***Choral Benediction "I Am Walking a Path of Peace" MV#221**

Postlude

Screen operators for the coming weeks:

July 2 Tracy **July 9** Stephen

Ushers for the coming weeks:

July 2 Bill S. & Bill R. **July 9** Sue R. & John **July 16** Annie & John

This Week's Events

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tuesday | 10:00am | Craft Group | Church Hall |
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Mount Royal Announcements:

Office closed tomorrow, July 3rd for the July 1st holiday.

Bulletin Dedications: If you would like to dedicate a bulletin in memory of a loved one or to say thanks or in recognition of a special occasion (eg - birthday, anniversary, graduation...) please contact the office. \$25 is the suggested donation.

New phone number or address? Please let the office know of any changes.

Curious about volunteering? If you have a talent or some time you would like to share with the church, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the office.

Do you wonder why something is in the Bible? How to put faith into action? Do you have an idea to share? There is an "I Wonder" box for those burning questions, bright ideas or mysteries. Write it down and place it in the box.

Food donations: We collect food items for the Alimentaire Peter McKee food bank. Drop off in the bin at the Bessborough door.

Summer closure dates: Mount Royal United Church, including the church office, will be closed from July 31st – Sept. 4th.

Council Highlights from June 20th Meeting: Council met to discuss the results of the visioning activity that was led by Rev. Kendall Harrison on May 6th. Council had lively discussion about next steps. The value of focusing and prioritizing on both short term and long term goals was stated. Council will continue to look at options for increased rental use of the building and look into organizations that could assist with larger building use projects. As per the visioning recommendations, a motion was carried to remove six rows of pews from the sanctuary. Rev. Scott asked council to consider the question "Where are we called?".



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

Music Ministry: France Henriques

Custodian: Matt Wilson

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