



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."

Oct 8th, 2023 – Thanksgiving Sunday

* 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*)

Introit "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

VU#213

Greeting

Lighting the Christ Candle

Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: In the song of birds,

All: we welcome God's presence.

One: In flowers blooming,

All: we welcome God's presence.

One: In the wave of a neighbour,

All: we welcome God's presence.

One: In the quiet of the evening,

All: we welcome God's presence.

One: In the memories we hold,

All: we welcome God's presence.

One: In this time of worship,

All: we welcome God's presence.

One: In thanks-giving and joy, we worship.

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

God of all, we have set aside this day of thanksgiving, because we sometimes have difficulty remembering to live out what that means. We sometimes have difficulty remembering to be thanks-giving. So—thank You, for

everything around us and within us. Open our hearts to direct our gratitude, our spirits, to share what we have been gifted. Open our lives to be Your Love for all people. In the name of Your Son Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Come, You Thankful People, Come" **VU#516**

Personal Prayer: "Don't Be Afraid" x2 **MV#90**
(Concluding with The Lord's Prayer)

We Listen to the Word

Children's Time

Children's Time Prayer: (repeat after me)

In this season of Thanksgiving, thank you God, for everything. For the air we breathe, the water we drink, for friends and food and the gifts we bring. Help us to share all that we have, so that love grows far and wide. But most of all, God, thank you for making us, the people we are inside. Amen.

***Hymn:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" **VU#226**

Prayer for Understanding **Reader: Marlene**

Scripture Lesson:

Psalm 63 VU#781 (sung refrain #2)

Gospel: Luke 17: 11-19

Response:

One: This is the Word of God,

All: **light for our living, love for our hearts.**

Sermon "Praying with Both Sides of the Coin"

Anthem ""

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn:** "God of the Sparrow" **VU#229**

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

Sung Dedication:

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" **VU#541**

Offertory Prayer: *(unison)*

Author of life, you meet us in our need. Your Love and Grace surround us. When our world gets turned upside down, you find us and carry us into freedom and light. In response to that Grace, we now offer the work of our hearts and hands in thanksgiving, praying they be taken, used, and multiplied beyond all reason towards the care of Your people. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Commissioning:

One: In the midst of God’s ordinary miracles, we came today to celebrate wonder!

All: Through the Christ, God calls us out to new places, to new hopes, to new lives!

One: Through the Spirit, God sends us out with spirits open to the divine presence, with lives filled, ready to share God’s love.

All: May God bless our journey, today and always!

One: In Jesus name, we go fourth in thanks-giving and praise.
Amen.

Extinguishing of the Christ Light

***Choral Benediction**

“Isaiah 55”

VU#884

Postlude

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Screen operators:

Oct 8 Elizabeth **Oct 15** Tracy **Oct 22** Erik **Oct 29** Elizabeth

Ushers:

Oct 8 Marlene & John **Oct 15** Eleanor & Ensor **Oct 22** Kim & Kevin

This Week’s Events

Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Kitchen
Tuesday	11:30am	UCW Meeting	Boardroom
Wednesday	7:00pm	Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday	12:30pm	Bridge	Church Hall

Office closed Monday for holiday

Scouting & Guiding groups meet throughout the week.

Sept 19th Council Highlights: **FINANCE:** some positives were shared such as great offerings throughout the summer and received the Faithful Footprints \$19,000 grant plus the remainder of the NB grant. However, the finances are still in a negative situation. Not many expenses that could be cut. Trustees approved a \$25,000 emergency fund transfer if necessary. Brief financial summary to be shared in the bulletin and slides once per month after the council meeting. **SYSTEMS:** Recommended to hire a contractor to run screens, sound and cameras (including livestream/recording) for Sunday services. Currently only two tech volunteers available. With only one person running all tech services on a Sunday morning there might be slight sound/camera angle changes from what was previously delivered. **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL:** Emily Smith has requested vacation time from January 11, 2024 – January 18th, 2024. Rev. Scott has requested study leave on November 2 & 3 so he will be away from October 30th until November 5th. **PASTORAL CARE:** Committee met recently and updated the flow sheet that is used to keep track of who visits who. If anyone on council knows of someone who should be visited, please reach out to Eleanor Nicholson to have them added to the current list. Pastoral Care will once again work with the UCW this upcoming holiday season. **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:** Highlighted that we received the remaining NB Power grant and the Faithful footprints grants from the recent retrofit projects. Sunday afternoon rental with the Pentecost Church is going well for both parties. Still looking for buyer for removed pews. **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Kids Korner will begin soon. **Visioning Exercise:** Lengthy council discussion on what has already been done regarding the Visioning Report and how to proceed with recommendations in the future. Moved that committee reports be submitted monthly but that every second council meeting solely focus on Visioning. Motion Carried. **Collaborative Ministry:** Summary of recent survey that some council members of Mount Royal participated in. **Mount Royal United Handbook:** Brief update as to the status of this document. Has been reformatted Terms of References are being updated by committee chairs. Hopeful to have a completed document for council approval before year end.

Mount Royal Announcements:

Lunch with Friends: Oct. 19th @ Noon: Cost: \$7 payable at the lunch Menu: Pizza (gluten free available), Caesar salad, fruit cup, tea & coffee Program: Share a funny story/favourite summer moment Sign up at the back of the church or in the office until Mon. Oct. 16th at 1pm.

United Church Calendars: Would you like to purchase a 2024 United Church of Canada Calendar? Cost per calendar is \$8. We need to sell 13 calendars in order to receive free shipping so please let Emily know via email or call **by Oct. 16th** if you would like to purchase one or a few! P.s. They make great gifts.

Church Rummage Sale! Oct. 20th 5:30-8pm & Oct. 21st 8-11am. Have any items to donate? Please drop off items to the church office from October 16th -19th between 9-2pm. Thank you!!

Halloween Muffin & Coffee Event! Oct 31st from 9:30am - 11:30am!
Join us for this fun, social, good will offering event - we'd love to see you and catch up over some delicious goodies!

Community Announcements:

Bookstravaganza: Oct 20, 21 and 22 @ the Moncton Coliseum. Great selection of used books at fabulous prices. Check out lnb.ca for info. [Have books to donate?](#) Please drop them in the designated boxes at Sobeys stores or contact Susan 506 855-7008 for pick up.

Go Define Love

When I wake up each day
let gratitude
stir and strengthen me, O God.
Let it draw me to goodness
and hold me there...

There, where your Spirit sings,
"Go define love today,"
and my heart chooses
to rise to the occasion.
Amen.

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@mountroyaluc.ca www.mountroyaluc.ca