

We Come Together

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

***Introit** "Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?"

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement**Announcements****Call to Worship:**

One: In the waiting of this season,

All: may patience be with us.

One: In the demands of this season,

All: may a gentle heart guide us.

One: In the expectation of this season,

All: may wonder come to fill us.

One: In the sharing of this season,

All: may joy grow between us.

One: In this season of new beginnings,

All: we rest in the light of hope, peace and joy,

One: and we worship the Light soon to be born among us.

***Hymn:** "A Candle Is Burning" vs. 1 – 3

VU#6

(Lighting the Candle of Joy)

Opening Prayer: (unison)

Holy One, as we approach You in worship, our hearts grow restless for the birth of Jesus. In between violence and hunger, our world needs Him. On the edges of addiction and poverty, our world needs Him. In between our own worries and fears, our hearts need Him. As the candle of joy burns brightly, remind us that joy is found in simple acts of love, shared with unexpected people. As we draw closer to the manger, may we both give and receive joy. In the loving name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Personal Prayer and the Lord's Prayer:

"Hope Is a Star" vs. 3

VU# 7**Children's Learning Time**

Children's Prayer:

**Thank you, God, for joy's bright light,
A gift so precious, pure, and right.
It fills our hearts, it lifts our souls,
And makes our lives brighter and whole.**

**May we spread joy, far and wide,
A beacon shining, a hopeful guide.
With peace and love, let's fill the earth,
And celebrate Your wondrous birth.
Amen.**

***Hymn:** "Joy Is Now in Every Place" **VU#45**

We Listen to the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: Trudy C.

Scripture Lesson:

Old Testament: Isaiah 58: 9-12

Gospel: Luke 3: 7-16

Response:

One: This is God's Word spoken for us,

All: **joy for our hearts and love in our living. Amen.**

Sermon "One Piece at a Time"

Anthem "That First Nowell"

Prayers of the People

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

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering:

***Sung Dedication:** We Give Thee but Thine Own" VU 543 vs. 1

***Offertory Prayer:** (*unison*)

Loving and Gracious God, it is in gratitude for Your gift of Joy that we make the offerings of our hearts and hands this day. May they be acceptable in Your sight and gathered by Your Spirit in offering the light of Your Joy to all peoples. Bless both the giver and receiver of these gifts

as we continue to wait in excitement for the birth of Your Son and our friend, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Joy to the World"

VU#59

***Blessing**

***Extinguishing of the Christ Light**

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

Postlude

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Volunteer Schedule:

Ushers: Dec 15 Sue R. & John	Dec 22 Terry & John
Screens: Dec 15 Tracy	Dec 22 Kevin

This Week's Calendar

Tues	10:00am	Craft Group	Kitchen
	7:00pm	Church Council	Boardroom
Wed	6:30pm	Blue Christmas	Sanctuary

Tai Chi** with Val is offered **Mon, Wed & Fri at 9:30am

Scouts, Embers, Rumi After School Learning Centre, Church of Pentecost and other groups use the church spaces during the week

December upcoming dates:

Cider & Christmas treats – Dec. 22nd

Children's Christmas Eve Service – Dec. 24th @ 4pm

All ages Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – Dec. 24th @ 7pm

Announcements:

Thank you to Mount Royal's UCW for their recent **\$3000 donation!**
We appreciate all that you do for Mount Royal!

Grocery Cards are Here! This is an excellent way to support your church and one of our major fundraisers.

UCW Invite: December 22, after the Sunday Service - Please join us downstairs for **Hot Cider and Christmas Treats.**

Blue Christmas: December 18th @ 6:30pm in the sanctuary. A quiet service of reflection as we acknowledge that even though this is a season of celebration not all may be right in our lives.