



# 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."

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**Christmas Eve**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Congregational responses in bold.**

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## **We Come Together**

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

**Introit** "Light of Light"

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement & Announcements**

**Call to Worship:** *(Ellie Avery)*

One: Listen!

**All: The air is still.**

One: Listen!

**All: The stars are shining brightly.**

One: Listen!

**All: In the distance, we hear the murmur of voices.**

One: Listen!

**All: We hear the cry of a child.**

One: God is with us! God is with us; let us worship.

**Candle Lighting:** *(Rev. Catherine and Ethan Stuart)*

We have waited with Mary and have found our hope. We have waited with Joseph and found our peace. We have waited with the shepherds and found our joy. We have waited with the angel and found our love. This evening as we peer into the manger, we find our life and our light.

**Hymn:** "We Light this Candle"

**Opening Prayer** (*in unison*): **Gracious God, we have waited throughout this holy season with the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love leading our way to the stable. As we quietly edge our way to the manger, our hearts dare to dream of your eyes meeting our eyes. In that moment, we know that you walk among us tonight, tomorrow and in everyday to come. In your precious name we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" **VU#60**

**Personal Prayer** "Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark" x2 **VU#19**  
(concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)

**We Listen to the Word**

**Learning Time Lesson**

**Learning Time Prayer:**

**O God, in the mystery of this Holy Night, we come, like the shepherds, filled with wonder and delight. We look, like Mary and Joseph, with our hearts filled with love, and sing like the Angels, your songs from above--of a world that can be different, filled with much joy, because of Jesus, the light, this precious baby boy. In his name, we offer this prayer, as our gift, as our promise, to love and to care like he did. Amen.**

*(Merry Christmas from our youth)*

**Hymn:** "O Holy Night" (Stephanie Mah)

**Prayer for Understanding** **Reader:** Ilene Maund

**Scripture Reading: Gospel:** Luke 2: 1 – 20 (*The Birth of Jesus*)

**One:** This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Praise be to you our Lord Jesus.**

**Sermon** "In the Unexpected"

**Anthem** "The Peace Carol" (France and Catherine Stuart)

# Pastoral Prayer

**Hymn:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" **VU#48**

## **We Respond to the Word**

**Invitation to the Offering:** The longing of our hearts has been met tonight in the birth of a babe in Bethlehem. Surrounding us now, are the promised gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love as the Christ child sits among us. In response to this wonderful gift, we offer our own back into the world praying they would be taken and used, that one and all may come to know the great grace of God.

### **Offertory Prayer** (unison)

**God of stars and stables, of wealthy sovereigns and homeless youth, we each bring our gifts as we are able, knowing that the strength of your love will bless each gift. Empowered by your Son, born to us this night, we rededicate ourselves to work of your church in the world guided by the light of all lights, Jesus the Christ, Amen.**

**Blessing:** Friends, as we depart this evening: May the God of Love surround you, the Spirit of Peace hold you and the Light for whom we've watched and waited, rest with you this night and always, **Amen.**

**Hymn:** "Silent Night, Holy Night" **VU#67**

**Postlude** "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" -Madison Chipper  
*As we part this evening the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ continue to burn brightly dispelling the darkness around them and holding us in the care and comfort of Christ...*

### **Memorial Tree Bulb Dedications**

**For:**

Gerry Christie (mother)  
Gerry Christie (wife)  
Rev Bill Beach and his wife Clair

**By:**

Kim & Kevin Gallant  
Jack Christie  
Kim & Kevin Gallant