



# 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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**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Lent 3**

**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*)

**Greeting**

**Lenten Lights**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

One: This is our third Sunday on our Lenten Road.

**All: We come seeking God:**

One: in stillness and in song,

**All: in praise and thanksgiving,**

One: as individuals and a community.

**All: We come seeking God:**

One: as Living Bread, nourishment for our journey, and rest for our souls. Let us find that rest as we worship!

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

**Living and Gracious God, as we enter into worship this day, we come trusting that you gather together the threads of our lives and weave them, with hands of love; into rest for the weary, comfort for the despairing, and peace for each restless heart. As we move with you in this Lenten time, allow our souls the**

**nourishment of your Grace, drawing us ever deeper into your life and keeping us on this road of faith. In the tender and loving name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn:** "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" **MV#10**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Merciful God, your steadfast Love allows us the courage and freedom to face the wrongs we have done. We confess now that we have broken relationships; we have turned away the stranger; we have forgotten to love the land, and we have neglected to care for one another as siblings of your Grace. We have pushed your priorities aside and refused to let your commandments question and guide our lives. As we open ourselves before you now, in humble vulnerability, forgive us, renew us, and remake us. In the name of Jesus, our redeemer and friend, we pray, Amen.**

*(silence)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness:**

Friends, what we have been is past, and what we shall become remains in the loving hands of God. Know now, there is nothing that can ever separate us from the Love of God; no wrong that Grace cannot enfold, no misstep or misdeed, that God cannot forgive. We are a loved and forgiven people, so that we may go on, to love and forgive others.

***We Listen to the Word***

**Children's Time**

**Children's Time Prayer:**

**You feed us on the journey, God, with food that strengthens us. We feel your love, your joy, your peace, because your Spirit is in us. Help us to know your goodness, when other choices feel wrong—you**

**give us what we need, God. In Lent, let us feel strong.  
Amen.**

**Hymn:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

**VU#371**

**Prayer for Understanding**

**Reader:** Lee Wilson

Holy one, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path in this Lenten time. As we approach your Word this day, bless us with ears that are open, with spirits that long for new discovery, and with hearts that are ever enfolded by your grace. Through the hearing of this Word, allow our steps to fall in rhythm with yours, on this Lenten road, and in this Lenten time. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Scripture Lessons: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13  
Luke 13: 1-9**

One: These are Inspired words:

**All: Love for our living, and light for our path.**

**Sermon** "What Feeds You? What Sets You Free?"

**Anthem** "Etude in D Minor op.82 no.65" Grant H. Blakney

**Prayers of the People**

***We Respond to the Word***

**Invitation to the Offering**

Music and laughter, hands and minds, curiosity, creativity, and compassion: what an abundance of gifts we have! These gifts are the response of our hearts, in the continued ministry of Jesus. We make them in joy and in hope, that they may in some small way, reflect the Light of Christ present in this community, out into the world.

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

**Blessing and Gracious God, as you continue to nourish us in this Lenten time, we pray our offering be taken and used in such a way that it provides nourishment, comfort, and strength for others. Receive all that we**

**offer this day, that your world would become just a little brighter in the giving. Along with our gifts we also bring items for the Karing Kitchen, for your beloved children who are in deep need. Bless these items and allow those who receive to know your love in every breath and every heartbeat. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**Hymn:** "As the Sun with Longer Journey"

**VU#111**

**Blessing:** (*unison*)

**May the Love of God enfold you,  
Jesus the Christ nourish you,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit Guide you,  
in this Lenten day, and on this Lenten Road. Amen.**

### **Extinguishing the Lenten Lights**

**One:** As we prepare now to leave this time of worship and continue our Lenten journey, we do so in the remembrance of the path Christ once walked for us.

**All:** "Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother!"

### **Postlude**

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**Ministers:** The Gathered Community  
**Clergy:** The Rev. Scott Stuart, BA, MDiv.  
**Music Ministry:** France Henriques  
**Office Administrator:** Tracy Parrott  
**Custodian:** Wayne Surette  
**Church Office:** 855-5771  
**Kitchen Phone & Fax:** 855-7180  
**Rev Scott Stuart's cell:** 506-295-5918  
**Office e-mail:** [office@mountroyaluc.ca](mailto:office@mountroyaluc.ca)  
**Mount Royal website:** [www.mountroyaluc.ca](http://www.mountroyaluc.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday, 9am - 3pm

**Screen operators for the coming weeks:**

**Mar 20** Esther, **Mar 27** Elizabeth, **Apr 3** Erik, **Apr 10** Debbie

**Sound/Prompter operators for the coming weeks:**

**Mar 20** Stephen, **Mar 27** Tracy, **Apr 3** Stephen, **Apr 10** Tracy

## **This Week's Events**

<b>Monday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	6:30pm	<b>Cubs</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Group</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	1:00pm	<b>Art Club</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	6:30pm	<b>Beavers</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Visioning</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
	7:00pm	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	6:15pm	<b>Brownies</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	10-12pm	<b>Tai Chi</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	6:30-8pm	<b>Girl Guides</b>	<b>Church Hall</b>

**Coffee and Conversation** will resume on April 3.

A **Good Friday** service will be held on **April 15** at 6:30pm.

The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **April 24** during and after the service as a brown bag lunch with tea and coffee served.

The **Anniversary Service** will be held Sunday, **May 1** with tea, coffee and cupcakes served at coffee and conversation.

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: CORRESPONDENCE:** A thank you note was received from Marjorie Henderson **ADHOC VISIONING COMMITTEE** made a presentation, asked whether we are ready

to evolve, to adapt and to do what it takes to become a vibrant centre of the community once more? What is our next step together? and invited feedback. **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL:**

Ron Roper announced that he will be stepping down as chair of the committee. Marlene MacLeod has agreed to sit on the committee as a member. **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT:** a

written Finance Report for the month ended February 28 was submitted. The report showed a current year operating deficit of (\$9,616) compared to a deficit of (\$6,480) last year. Operating expenses are up by \$850 from the same month last year but almost identical to the two-month year-to-date figures. Operating revenue is down slightly from last year. M & S and outreach contributions are up slightly over last year. We continue to draw on our surplus accumulated in previous years with the hope that renewed fundraising opportunities will help to contribute to the operating costs once again. **UCW/CRAFT GROUP:** UCW held

their first meeting this year with 10 members present. They honoured Marj Henderson and read the lyrics to the song played at Krista McCabe's funeral. They are embarking on a community project to provide pails filled with cleaning supplies for Crossroads for Women. Craft Group met in the kitchen for the first time since Covid began. They found it easier to communicate with those who participated online in the smaller space. **WORSHIP**

**COMMITTEE:** Rev Stuart noted that there has been a request for Baptism by Rebecca & Matt Thorne. The request was approved and will take place on May 1. It was confirmed that the annual meeting will be held on April 24. **MINISTERS REPORT:** called a meeting of the Executive committee to ask for guidance in regard to Bob Oke's funeral. It was decided to keep hand sanitizing and masking protocols in place for the funeral but will not ask for proof of vaccination or do contact tracing. There will not be a formal reception although folks are welcome to join the family in the social hall to extend their condolences. **PROPERTY**

**MAINTENANCE:** the freezer isn't working properly and a service

call has been arranged. The blue carpet at the front of the church is in bad shape and needs to be replaced. One quote of \$7,500 for a durable vinyl flooring has been received and other quotes will be obtained. The replacement of the roof over the office is in the budget the roofing company has been notified that we are ready to proceed with this work. Ideally it would be done in August to cause the least disruption. **COMMUNICATION:** services and other requests are posted to the FB page. The United Church page is followed and relevant items are posted as well as obituary's and funerals for members of Mount Royal. **SYSTEMS COMMITTEE:** It was noted that Scott has been recording and posting his daily devotionals during Lent. Live stream will be required for the funeral on Friday so a tech crew will be there. A crew will be necessary for outside group events going forward. The website updates and facelift are in progress. **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** the Lenten study continues. The photo scavenger hunt is ongoing. Scott is planning on gathering the children on Teams to do a sit-down children's time. He will deliver parcels to each child. They will contain chocolate and a symbol of Easter and they will open the gifts while on Teams and then discuss the symbols and why they are important. **COVID related discussion:** The vaccination requirement for attending worship will be dropped and we will no longer do contact tracing. Hand sanitizing, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue. It was decided that we will slowly introduce coffee and conversation after church starting April 3. **NEW BUSINESS:** Continuing from M&P – Council is in agreement that Rev Stuart may split his vacation between three weeks in August and two in March. The church will close for a minimum of 3 weeks in August. Further to the terms of reference for the Executive Committee, the Chair of Council will be designated as the chair of the Executive Committee. Susan Fowler acknowledged Ron Roper, Ilene Maund and David Close for their many, many years of contributions to council and the church.