



Mountainside United Church



Ninth after Pentecost – Proper 14
August 10, 2025

Territorial Acknowledgement:

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Anishinabeg and Kanien'kehá:ka nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Prelude:

Paysages (La fontaine et la cloche) - Federico Mompou
Piano: Alberto Santos

Holy Greeting:

As sunlight dazzles on lakes and sunsets blaze through the sky,
let the brilliance of our Creator God's love guide us to discover God's way for us.

With the cry of a loon rising up into the dusk or the shouts of children playing in a field,
let the melody of God's love sung through Jesus help us to receive God's word for us.

Like granite running jagged through the hills or creeks flowing from source to sea,
let the presence of God's Spirit ground us so we may know God's strength within us.

Hymn: VU 686 "God of grace and God of glory"

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfill your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.
3. Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
4. Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

Opening Prayer:

O God, who to an expectant and united church didst grant at Pentecost the gift of the Holy Spirit, and hast wonderfully brought into one fold those who now worship thee here: grant us the help of the same Spirit in all our life and worship, that we may expect great things from thee, and attempt great things for thee, and being one in thee may show to the world that thou didst send Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

Hymn: VU 580 “Faith of our fathers”

1. Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
 faith of our fathers, holy faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

2. Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
 faith of our mothers, holy faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

3. Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
 faith for today, O living faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

4. Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
 Faith born of God, O living faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

Epistle:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Reader: Rich Neufeld

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Psalm 50 (VU p. 775)

Reader: Rich Neufeld

Refrain:

The mighty one, God the Sovereign,
speaks and summons the earth.

God, the Almighty, has spoken;

and summoned the world

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.

Our God appears, and will not keep silence. [Refrain]

Before you, God, runs a consuming fire,
and a mighty tempest rages about you.

You call on the heavens above,

and on the earth below,

to witness the judgement of your people:

“Gather my people before me,
the people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.”

The heavens proclaim your justice,

for you yourself are judge. [Refrain]

@Gospel:

Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Write these words on our hearts dear God!

Hymn: VU 714 “Come, we that love”

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion,

beautiful, beautiful Zion;

we're marching upward to Zion,

the beautiful city of God.

1. Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known,
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,

and thus surround the throne. **R**

2. Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad. **R**

3. The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields,
before we reach the heavenly fields
or upwalk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets. **R**

4. Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground
to fairer worlds on high,
to fairer worlds on high. **R**

Sermon: Home

Music for Spiritual Centering:

The Jubilee Song - Jamie Rivera
Offered by Lilibeth & Ruel Arevalo

Meditative Prayer in Silence

Prayers of the People:

Loving and Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of today, the gift of learning and imagining together about your call to us, to this church, and to your world in this time and space.

Just as you sent your Spirit across generations, across time, filling people with dreams and visions, we ask you to visit us, filling our hearts and minds and whole bodies with dreams and visions so that we might serve as bold and daring disciples of Jesus, witnessing and celebrating your presence.

Send your love to the people and places we name now out loud in our homes and churches, in the chat, and in the silence of our hearts, as we pray for

people and places crying for justice...
people and places celebrating with joy...
people struggling in body, mind, and spirit...
your worldwide church...
and for the communities close to our hearts...

God, we know you are with us, listening to even those sighs too deep for words.

Continue to be with us and accompany those traveling as we prepare to meet. Inspire our hearts and spirits with dreams and visions, and ready us to speak and act boldly with love and justice.

In Christ's name, we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us, in the language of our hearts.

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: MV 18 “Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

Benediction

Postlude:

His Eye Is on the Sparrow - Charles H. Gabriel, arr. Jack Schrader
Piano: Alberto Santos

Reference and Information **for the week of August 10, 2025**

- TODAY we invite you to join us for coffee and conversation after the service.
- NEXT Sunday - August 17, we invite you to join us in celebration with JOY as we have lunch as well as celebrating with members enjoying an August Birthday.

Please consider giving to the church. Your gift will help serve our local community and far beyond. For that, we are grateful. You may leave your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you are at home, you can send a cheque, e-Transfer funds, or arrange for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). See details on giving at www.mountainsideunited.ca.

The service is livestreamed on Zoom on Sunday Mornings.

In the event of poor reception, the Service may be viewed later on our YouTube Channel:

Please visit our website for regular updates and more information!www.mountainsideunited.ca