



Mountainside United Church

3520 Rue University Montreal, Qc, H3A 2A7

Sunday Worship, 10:30 am

Tel: (514) 486-1165 www.mountainsideunited.ca

Proper 17 Year C
August 31, 2025

Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice

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. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Prelude:

Minuet from *Berenice*
- Handel

Piano Dr. Margaret DeCastro

Holy Greeting

The grace of our Sovereign Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you!

And also with you!

Hymn: VU# 228 *Sing Praises to God*

1. Sing praises to God! Sing praise in the height;
rejoice in God's word, blest angels of light;
high heavens, recalling by whom you were made,
come, offer your worship in brightness arrayed.
2. Sing praises to God! Sing praise upon earth,
in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth;
praise God, who has brought you rich grace from above,
and showered your life with abundance of love.
3. Sing praises to God! all things that give sound,
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, your glory tell out in deep tone,
and trumpets, the story of what God has done.

4. Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song
be ever outpoured, all ages along:
for love in creation, for hope spread abroad,
for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.

Opening Prayer

Generous Creator, by your grace you provide for those in need not those with greed.

**Enable us, who claim to be your people, the awareness to see if pride of place
and the pursuit of power motivates us and so we display a false humility when in
community.**

O Christ, open our hearts to a more generous and just way of living
that evinces esteem for others, so that we may honour and please you by how we live.

Silent Prayers

God in your love,
Hear our prayer.
Amen

Hymn: **MV#145** *Draw the Circle Wide*

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

1. God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. **[R]**

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. **[R]**

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. **[R]**

Hebrew Scripture: **Proverbs 25: 6, 7**

Reader: Santos Dizon

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble

What your eyes have seen.

This is the witness of your people Israel!
Thanks be to God!

Psalm: 81 VU# 796,7 Part Two with refrain (R)

Reader: Santos Dizon

Refrain:

Sing with joy to God! Sing to God our help!

It is I who am God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.

But my people would not hear my voice,
Israel would not obey me.

**So I left them in their stubbornness of heart
to follow their own devices.**

O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would follow my paths.

**I would soon put down their enemies,
and turn a hand against their foes.**

Those who hate me would cringe before me,
their fate would be sealed forever.

**But you I would feed with the finest of wheat,
you I would satisfy with honey from the rock. R**

@Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7 - 14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Write these words on our hearts, dear God!

Hymn: VU # 394 *Moved by the Gospel, Let Us Move*

1. Moved by the Gospel, let us move
with every gift and art.
The image of creative love
In dwells each human heart.
The Maker calls creation good,
so let us now express
with sound and colour, stone and wood,
the shape of holiness.

2. Let weavers form from broken strands

a tapestry of prayer.
Let artists paint with skilful hands
their joy, lament, and care.
Then mime the story: Christ has come.
With reverence dance the word.
With flute and organ, ching* and drum
God's praise be ever heard.

3. O Spirit, breathe among us here;
inspire the work we do.
May hands and voices, eye and ear
attest to life made new.
In worship and in daily strife
create among us still.
Great Artist, form our common life
according to your will.

Sermon Optics or Perspective

Rev. Dr. Douglas Throop

Offertory Reflections: Acknowledging How Givings Grow into Lives Changed

Music for Spiritual Centering:

O Rest in the Lord from *Elijah* - Mendelssohn
Colleen Bartley, alto
Piano Dr. Margaret DeCastro

Silent Prayer:

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 VU#639 *One More Step Along the World I Go*

Refrain:

And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

1. One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you: [R]

2. Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see

you'll be looking at along with me: [R]

3. As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know: [R]

4. Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you: [R]

5. You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you: [R]

Benediction:

Postlude:

Voluntary in C Major – Travers
Piano Dr. Margaret DeCastro

Reference and Information
for the week of August 31, 2025

- Today we celebrate a Major Holiday Weekend of Labour Day. Enjoy the time and please join us for coffee and conversation after the Service.
- September 7. Worship in the Birks Heritage Chapel at 10:30am.
- L&L will meet after the service.
- Session will meet on September 17@5pm.

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