



# Mountainside United Church

*Birks Heritage Chapel*

*3520 Rue University Montreal, Qc ,H3A 2A7*

*Sunday Worship: 10:30 am*

*Tel: (514) 486-1165 [www.mountainsideunited.ca](http://www.mountainsideunited.ca)*

*Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon 2026*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026*

*Joyeux Noël et bonne année 2026*

*ADVENT III: Joy, Year A*

**December 14, 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:**

Carol of the Bells (Ukrainian Bell Carol) - Mykola Leontovich, arr. Mark Hayes

Piano: Alberto Santos

### **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!**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Joy**

**Reader:** Philip Johnston

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.” (Isaiah 35:1–2)

### **What does joy feel like in the new world?**

Joy feels like everlasting love.

**Joy feels like the freedom to be who God created me to be. Joy feels like sharing love and kindness.**

Joy feels like pride.

Advent is the beginning of this new creation, a better world, where joy boldly bubbles up in unexpected ways in unexpected places.

**May it be so.**

### **Lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy:**

**Hymn:** VU# 7 Hope Is a Star vs 1, 2, and 3 with Refrain

**Refrain:** When God is a child there's joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright. **R**

2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth. **R**

3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Savior is born. **R**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Most holy and most loving God,

As we gather on this third Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of joy, reminding us of the good news that your child, Jesus Christ, brings to all the world.

**Yet we remain sharply aware that injustice and inequality still mar our society, and in many instances appear to be increasing.**

Help us to not lose our awareness of what is actually occurring in this world while not being resolved to the way things now are.

**Fill our hearts with a gladness that transcends our circumstances and help us to reflect your joy to those around us.**

May we carry this joy into our daily lives, sharing kindness, hope, and love with all we meet.

**Let our anticipation of Christ's coming inspire us to live as beacons of your light in a world that longs for something truly meaningful and truly better.**

### **Silent Prayers**

God in your love,  
**Hear our prayer.**  
**Amen**

### **Collect: VU# 45 Joy Is Now in Every Place**

**Refrain: O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.**

1. Joy is now in every place,  
Christmas lightens every face;  
now be with us, in your grace, **R**
2. May the star that shone that night,  
making your poor stable bright,  
fill our hearts with love and light, **R**
3. Through the New Year let it stay,  
leading us upon your way,  
making Christmas every day, **R**
4. Now and ever may we find  
your good news to fill our mind:  
peace and love to humankind, **R**

**Epistle: James 5: 7 - 10**

**Reader:** Philip Johnston

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the witness of the Early Church!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 146    VU p. 868 with Refrain (R)**

**Reader:** Philip Johnston

**Refrain:**

**Give your praise to God, O my soul!**

Praise God, O my soul. As long as I live I will praise God.

**Yes, as long as I have life I will sing praises to God.**

Put not your trust in princes, nor in any mortal,  
for in them there is no help.

**When they breathe their last they return to dust;  
then their plans come to nothing.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

**whose hope is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,**

the One who keeps faith for ever,  
**who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry. R**

God sets prisoners free, restores sight to the blind.

**God straightens those who are bent;  
loves those who are just.**

God cares for the stranger in the land,  
and sustains the widow and orphan;

**but the way of the wicked God turns to ruin.**

God shall reign forever, O Zion,

**your God for all generations. R**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

**Write these words on our hearts dear God!**

**Hymn: VU#35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**Sermon: Do You See What I See?**

**Rev. Dr Douglas Throop**

**Offertory Reflections: Acknowledging How Givings Grow into Lives Changed**

**Music for Silent Reflection:**

Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child - Traditional Spiritual, arr. Lloyd Larsonè  
Voices: MUC Choir  
Piano: Alberto Santos

### **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 # 59 Joy to the World**

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

### **Benediction:**

### **Postlude:**

Go, Tell It On the Mountain - African-American Spiritual, arr. Glenda Austin  
Piano: Alberto Santos

## **Reference and Information** **for the week of December 14th, 2025**

- ❖ December 14, TODAY. Enjoy a coffee after the Service and a Little Jazz for the Holidays- our annual Christmas Concert in the Birks Heritage Chapel at 3:00pm.
- ❖ December 21. Advent IV. LOVE. A SPECIAL THANK YOU with catered Lunch to express the Joy of the season and to mark all the work you have done all year to make the year successful.
- ❖ December 21. Please submit to the Church Office for Printing in the Bulletin on December 21 - the Names of those you wish to have remembered and by whom they are remembered.
- ❖ December 24, Christmas Eve Service in Birks Heritage Chapel at 4:30pm. Communion.
- ❖ December 28, NOT IN PERSON - on ZOOM - 10:30 am.

### ***A Gift for Jesus***

As the Christmas season is upon us, may we suggest that you consider ***A Gift for Jesus***. To wrap up the United Church of Canada's centennial year, please contribute to our final appeal. Your donation will support:

- Christmas gifts for children at St. Columba House
- The Montreal Mission Internship Program - Mountainside's Centennial Project for a Diocesan College student stipend to work next summer at a Montreal community based organization
- Truth and Reconciliation Mountainside Activity 2026

Please indicate ***A Gift for Jesus*** on your cheque, eTransfer, or envelope found at the back of the Chapel. Thank you for helping spread the light.

- 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](http://www.mountainsideunited.ca).