



Mountainside United Church

3520 Rue University Montreal, Qc, H3A 2A7
Sunday Worship, 10:30 am on Zoom
Tel: (514) 486-1165 www.mountainsideunited.ca

CHRISTMAS II YEAR A
December 28, 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:

Rêverie – Claude Debussy
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!

Hymn: MV# 28 *God of the Bible*

Refrain:

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home. **R**

2. God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,

feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. **R**

3. Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights. **R**

4. Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way. **R**

5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other.
till our world changes, facing the Cross. **R**

Call to Worship: (Opening Prayer of National Centennial Service, adapted)

Awesome God,
on this last Sunday of our centennial year, help us to remain an expectant and united church.
And by your Spirit, bring us to this time and place
to lift our hearts, minds, and bodies to worship you.

**Remplis-nous de l'espérance de ce même
Esprit dans notre vie et notre culte.
Apprends-nous à attendre de grandes choses de
toi et à oser de grandes choses pour toi!**

We are diverse in many ways,
but our hearts are one in you.

**May we show the world
the love we experience in Jesus,
and the power we find in the Spirit
as we seek to continue to honour your dream for this United Church of ours.**

Silent Prayers

God in your love,
Hear our prayer.
Amen

Hymn: **VU#603** *In Loving Partnership We Come*

1. In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive,
we freely offer them to you.

2. We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.

3. Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.

4. In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

@Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 63: 7 - 9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

Responsive Psalm: 148 VU# 871 with refrain (R)

Reader: Blanca Baquero

Refrain : Let the whole creation cry, Glory be to God on high.

Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!
Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!

Praise God, farthest heavens, and all water beyond heaven! R

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command they were created,
who established them for all time, setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise God from the earth, great sea creatures and ocean depths,
lightening and hail, snow and frost, gales that obey God's decree,**

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,
wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

sovereigns who rule earth and its people,

all who govern and judge this world,

young men and women alike, old people and children together! R

Let all things praise the name of God,
the name above every other, whose splendour covers heaven and earth,

You give strength to your people,

songs of praise to your faithful,

to Israel, the people dear to your heart. R

Gospel: Colossian 3: 12 - 17

Reader: Blanca Baquero

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual

songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the witness of the Early Church!
Thanks be to God!

Hymn: VU # 284 *Joyful Is the Dark*

1. Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming,
majesty in darkness, energy of love,
Word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming.
2. Joyful is the dark Spirit of the deep,
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,
silken sheen of midnight, plumage black and bright,
swooping with the beauty of a raven.
3. Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor;
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.
4. Joyful is the dark coolness of the tomb,
waiting for the wonder of the morning.
Never was that midnight touched by dread and gloom:
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.
5. Joyful is the dark depth of love divine,
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,
holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

Joyful is the dark, joyful is the dark, joyful is the dark.

Sermon Abundant Love

Rev. Dr. Douglas Throop

Offertory Reflections: Acknowledging How Givings Grow into Lives Changed

Music for Spiritual Centering:

For Everyone Born - Shriley Erena Murray & Brian Mann, arr. Tom Trenney
Voices: Mountainside United Church Choir
Violin: Han-Jou Ku
Piano: Alberto Santos

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#642 *Be Thou My Vision*

1. Be Thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee.

3. Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

5. Great God of heaven, after my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction:

Postlude:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice - arr. Mark Hayes
Piano: Alberto Santos

Reference and Information
for the week of December 28, 2025

- ❖ January 4, 2026, we welcome a NEW YEAR online with - Jazz Christmas Concert.
- ❖ January 11, 2026 - Regular services will resume at the Birks Chapel

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

