



# Mountainside United Church

*ADVENT II: Peace, Year A*  
December 7, 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:**

Still - Ola Gjeilo  
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:**

**Lay Leader:** Judy Clark

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6)

What does peace look like in the new world?

**Peace looks like a flowing river where every living thing has what they need to flourish. Peace looks like a place where those who are weak are not afraid of those who are strong. Peace looks like good conversations around big tables.**

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can boldly build a good life together.

**May it be so.**

(Second Advent candle is lit.) **Amen.**

There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

**Christ arrives right on time to make this happen.**

**Candle Lighting Hymn: VU# 7 Hope Is a Star vs 1 & 2 with Refrain**

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

**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

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

**Opening Prayer:**

Holy One, in the Holy Land the scars and wounds of warfare are still raw, and the process of peace fragile and uncertain. In Ukraine it is the same. In Taiwan the breath of the now awoken dragon is felt as it tries to reestablish China's imperial past and so they live in a state of hypervigilance. In Nigeria attacks against peoples of different faiths continue, and in the Philippines and the United States of America the shadow of totalitarianism looms large.

**O Christ, are we deluding ourselves when we talk about a coming realm of peace and wholeness under your benevolent care?**

In this city we recall the anniversary of the massacre of the 14 women at the École Polytechnique, and yet violence against women and their objectification and denigration continue both in our culture and in our homes.

**O God, are we deluding ourselves when we believe that we can change?**

On this continent we are hearing of the rise of attacks against minorities, against minority religions, and against the GLBTQ+ communities as we appear to be making hate OK again.

**Holy Spirit, when faced with these ongoing problems, we confess that in many ways we feel like Sisyphus, for we believe we are making progress only to have the stone roll down the other side of the hill and we have to begin anew.**

Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay, close by us forever, and love us we pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven as we live with you here.

**Amen.**

**Collect: MV# 179 Sisters Let Us Walk Together** (Remembering December 6, 1989)

1. Sisters let us walk together,  
sharing sadness, loss and grief,  
we will move through pain to wholeness,  
brokenness transformed to peace.
2. Brothers let us work together,  
seeking justice, healing shame,  
filled with hope, imbued with courage,  
ev'ry violence we will name.
3. People let us love together,  
joining spirits, linking hands,  
we are God's unique creation,  
clothed with dignity we'll stand.

**@Epistle**

**Romans 15: 4 - 7**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

This is the witness of the Early Church!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Responsive Psalm 72 VU#790 with Refrain**

**Reader:** Judy Clark

**Refrain:**

Hail to God 's own anointed, who rules in equity.

**Part One**

Give the ruler your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the royal heir,  
**for judging your people rightly,  
and upholding the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,  
**and the hills, prosperity with justice. R**  
May your anointed defend the cause of the poor  
among the people,  
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.  
**May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,  
as long as the moon from age to age.**  
May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,  
like showers that water the earth;  
**may your anointed be one in whose days  
justice shall flourish and peace abound  
till the moon is no more. R**

### **The Gospel**

**Matthew 3: 1 - 6**

**Reader:** Judy Clark

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

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

### **Hymn: VU#29 Hark the Glad Sound**

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.
2. He comes, *the suffer* to release  
in *addiction’s* bondage held;  
the gates of brass before *them* burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the *struggling* poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,

you're welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

**Sermon:** Grant Applications

**Rev. Dr Douglas Throop**

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

**Music for Silent Reflection:**

Heavenly Star - Pepper Choplin  
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 # 577 I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
2. I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
3. I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.  
I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

**Benediction:**

**Postlude:**

The Crossing - Ola Gjeilo

Piano: Alberto Santos

**Reference and Information**  
**for the week of December 7th, 2025**

- **TODAY** is Advent II. PEACE. We welcome all to Worship and to join us in conversation and coffee on Level 1 after the Service.
- **December 14.** Advent III. JOY. Pink attire is requested at the 10:30 Worship Service.
- AN IMPORTANT WELCOME TO ALL @ 3:00pm to BHC -to The JAZZ MUSIC CONCERT a time of JOY in music.
- **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 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 24.** Christmas Eve Service. 4:30 pm.
- The Thursday morning Zoom study group will continue until Dec. 11th. There will be a break for the holidays from Dec. 18th and sessions will resume Jan 8th.

***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).

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:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/ KrBjJNFt\\_U?feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/live/KrBjJNFt_U?feature=share)

Please visit our website for regular updates and more information! [www.mountainsideunited.ca](http://www.mountainsideunited.ca)

