



Mountainside United Church

3520 Rue University Montreal, Qc, H3A 2A7

Sunday Worship, 10:30 am

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

Epiphany II Year A
January 18, 2026

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:

Softly and Tenderly - arr. Joel Raney
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:

Some of us have travelled a distance to get here this morning, for some it is from the West Island, for some the South Shore, and for some the inner ‘burbs’ of this city.

Some of us have travelled from even further places afield as we have come from other Provinces and other nations.

Spiritually, some of us come from even more places and greater distances, and with greater difficulty. It is not easy to be a person of faith these days, O God!

Yet there is something that still draws us to you, Lord Jesus, from your teachings, your miracles, and your radical inclusion of those on the margins in his day, and in our days.

We pray that your Spirit rest and remain in this community of faith that gathers in your worship and in your name.

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.

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3: 6 - 13

Reader: Grace Garcia

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the witness of the Early Church!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm: 80 VU# 794 Part One with refrain (R)

Reader: Grace Garcia

Refrain: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

Shepherd of Israel, hear us,

**you who lead Joseph like a flock,
you who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.**

Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh;

stir up your might, come and save us. R

God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayer?

**You have fed us with the bread of weeping,
and given us tears in plenty to drink.**

You have made a mockery of us to our neighbours,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Let your hand rest on the one at your right hand,

on the one you have made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never forsake you;
give us life, and we will call on your name. R**

@Gospel: John 1: 29 - 42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!
Write these words on our hearts, dear God!

Hymn: VU # 352 *I Danced in the Morning*

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth. **R**

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance, and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the Dance went on. **R**

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die. **R**

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the Dance and I still go on. **R**

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life, that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. **R**

Sermon Come From Away

Rev. Dr. Douglas Throop

Offertory Reflections: Acknowledging How Givings Grow into Lives Changed

Music for Spiritual Centering:

Cantique de Jean Racine - Gabriel Fauré
Voices: Mountainside United Church Choir
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#651 *Guide Me, O Thou Great God Yahweh*

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee
I will ever give to thee.

Benediction:

Postlude:

In Christ Alone - K. Getty & S. Townend, arr. L. Shackley
Piano: Alberto Santos

Reference and Information
for the week of January 18, 2026

- ❖ TODAY we are pleased to have you join with us at the Service and you are INVITED to remain after the service for LUNCH on Level 1 and wish a Happy Birthday to the January Birthday celebrants.
- ❖ January 21- The Session will meet at 5:15pm on Zoom.
- ❖ January 25- Worship Service at Birks Heritage Chapel.
- ❖ Bible study group has resumed and meets every Thursday at 9:30am

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.mountaininsideunited.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