



*3520 Rue University Montreal, Qc, H3A 2A7  
Sunday Worship, 10:30 am  
Tel: (514) 486-1165 [www.mountainsideunited.ca](http://www.mountainsideunited.ca)*

*Epiphany III Year A  
January 25, 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:**

Gymnopédie No. 1 - Erik Satie  
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: VU# 61 Of the Father's Love Begotten**

**1.** Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
Christ is Alpha and Omega,  
Christ the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are and have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

**2.** At his word the worlds were framed.  
He commanded, it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean  
in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the moon and burning sun,

evermore and evermore.

**3.** O, that birth for ever blessed!  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

**4.** This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore.

**5.** O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

**6.** Christ, to thee, with God most blessed,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be,  
honour, glory, and dominion  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore. Amen.

### **Call to Worship:**

Helps us, Lord Jesus, to find here a place apart from the worries and stresses of these days.

**We find ourselves living in strange times, O God.**

The world political order is erupting, bullying is becoming mainstay, and we are all angrier and less patient than we believe we used to be.

**We find ourselves living in strange times, O God.**

Personal budgets are being stretched, and prices continue to climb for our daily bread, and we find it harder to make ends meet so we find it harder to be generous with others.

**We find ourselves living in more global times, O God, for in this land we have been isolated from the ongoing struggles of the 2/3rds world.**

Give us, most Holy Spirit, a time to catch our breath, a time to reflect on higher things and our higher purpose, and a time for the rekindling of our spirits for the challenges of our days.

Silent Prayers

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

**Amen**

**Hymn: MV#71 When the Wind of Winter Blows**

**Refrain:**

Holy Light, warm our night;  
warm the time of winter.  
Holy Light, warm our night;  
warm the time of winter.

**1.** When the wind of winter blows,  
bringing times of solitude,  
fill the silent icy night;  
be our hearts' compassion. **R**

**2.** When we shiver in despair,  
when the chill of death comes near,  
hold us, Spirit, calm our fear,  
while the evening deepens. **R**

**3.** When in days of fallen snow,  
change confounds or love burns low,  
from the ashes may there rise  
phoenix of our growing. **R**

**@Epistle: I Corinthians 1: 10- 18**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

This is the witness of the Early Church!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm: 27 VU# 754,5 with refrain (R)**

Reader: Lynne Dawson

**Refrain:**

God is my light and saving health,  
I shall not be afraid.

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

**God is the stronghold of my life,**

**Of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked close in to devour me,

**it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me,

my heart shall not be afraid;

**if war should arise against me,**

**even then I will not be dismayed. R**

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long;  
that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,  
**to gaze on your beauty, O God,**  
**and to seek you in your temple.**

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;  
**you will hide me under the cover of your tent,**  
**you will set me high upon a rock.**

And now you have raised my head  
above my enemies round about me.

**Therefore I will offer in your dwelling**  
**a sacrifice with great gladness. R**

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.

Your face, O God, I seek.

**Do not hide your face from me;**  
**do not reject your servant in anger,**  
**you who have been my helper.**

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**Though my father and mother forsake me,**  
**my God will take me up. R**

Teach me your way, O God,  
**lead me on a level path,**  
**safe from those who lie in wait for me.**  
Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,  
**for liars and false witnesses arise against me.**  
I believe that I shall see God's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
**Wait for God; be strong, and take courage;**  
**yes, wait for God! R**

**Gospel: Matthew 4: 17 - 23**

Reader: Lynne Dawson

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

**Hymn: VU # 401   Worship the Lord**

**Refrain :**

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)  
\*worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,  
raising our hands (raising our hands)

in devotion to God who is one!

**1.** Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,  
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,  
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,  
worship and work must be one! **R**

**2.** Praying and training that we be a blessing,  
and by our handiwork daily confessing:  
we are committed to serving humanity,  
worship and work must be one ! **R**

**3.** Called to be partners with God in creation,  
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,  
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,  
worship and work must be one! **R**

**4.** Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,  
asking that we may be led and enabled,  
truly united to build new communities,  
worship and work must be one! **R**

**5.** Now in response to the life you are giving,  
help us, O Father, to offer our living,  
seeking a just and a healing society,  
worship and work must be one! **R**

**Sermon** Cross Words or Cross Roads

Rev. Dr. Douglas Throop

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

#### **Music for Spiritual Centering:**

O For a Closer Walk with God - Charles V. Stanford  
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#710 Shall We Gather at the River**

##### **Refrain :**

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river

that flows by the throne of God.

**1.** Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod;  
with its crystal tide for ever  
flowing by the throne of God? **R**

**2.** Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. **R**

**3.** Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. **R**

**Benediction:**

**Postlude:**

Higher Ground - Charles H. Gabriel, arr. Mark Hayes  
Piano: Alberto Santos

**Reference and Information**  
**for the week of January 25, 2026**

- ❖ -TODAY we welcome you to the Worship Service and invite you to Level 1 after the Service for coffee and conversation.
- ❖ February 1. Worship at 10:30am In person at BHC.
  - L& L will meet after the Service

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:**

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