



Mountainside United Church

3520 Rue University Montreal, Qc, H3A 2A7

Sunday Worship, 10:30 am

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

Lent IV Year A
March 15, 2026

Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice

@indicates the text the minister is reading and the basis of the sermon

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:

Jesus, Lover of My Soul - arr. Larry Shackley
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# 1 *Let Us Build a House*

Refrain:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live, a place where saints and
children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true, where all God's children
dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness

and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **R**

3. Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on
holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **R**

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **R**

5. Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **R**

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Jesse Jackson

O God, I am Somebody!

I am Somebody!

I may be poor,

But I am Somebody.

I may be young,

But I am Somebody.

I may be on welfare,

But I am Somebody.

I may be small,

But I am Somebody.

I may have made mistakes,

But I am Somebody.

My clothes are different,

My face is different,

My hair is different,

But I am Somebody.

I am black,

Brown, or white.

I speak a different language

But I must be respected,

Protected,

Never rejected.

I am God's child!

Silent Prayers

God in your love,

Hear our prayer.

Amen

Hymn: MV#162 *Christ, within Us Hidden*

1. Christ, within us hidden
Christ, in all and each.
Christ, who comes unbidden.
Christ, within our reach.

2. Christ, born in our stable,
Christ, our daily bread.
Christ, host at our table.
Christ, the hungry fed.

3. Christ, in friendship's sharing
Christ, in stranger's face.
Christ, reborn in caring.
Christ, in love's embrace.

4. Christ, in bodies broken,
Love new crucified.
Christ, the Word new spoken,
death by love defied.

5. Christ, in love recovered.
Christ, in hope revealed.
Christ, in faith discovered.
Christ in tombs unsealed.

@Epistle : Ephesians 5: 8 - 14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Psalm: 23 VU# 749 Part One with refrain (R)

Reader: Loida Guilbault

Refrain 1: My shepherd is the lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

God is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall lack.
You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,
you lead me beside peaceful waters;
you revive my spirit,
You guide me in right pathways for your name's sake. R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,
your rod and your staff are my comfort.
You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R

Gospel: John 9: 1-12

Reader: Loida Guilbault

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Write these words on our hearts, dear God!

Hymn: VU#266 *Amazing Grace*

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Sermon Finding Out Who's Naughty or Nice

Rev. Dr. Douglas Throop

Offertory Reflections: Acknowledging How Givings Grow into Lives Changed

Music for Spiritual Centering:

God So Loved the World - Sir John Stainer
Voices: Mountainside United Church Choir

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: *People Get Ready*

People get ready
There's a train a comin'
You don't need no baggage
You just get on board
All you need is faith
To hear the diesel's hummin'
You don't need no ticket
You just thank the Lord

So people get ready
For the train to Jordan
Picking up passengers
Coast to coast
Faith is the key
Open the doors and board them
There's hope for all
Among those loved the most

There ain't no room
For the hopeless sinner
Whom would hurt all mankind
Just to save his own
Have pity on those whose
Chances grow thinner
For there's no hiding place
Against the kingdom's throne
You know there's no hiding place
There's no hiding place

So people get ready
There's a train a comin'
You don't need no baggage
You just get on board
All you need is faith
To hear the diesel's hummin'
You don't need no ticket
You just thank the Lord

People get ready

Benediction:

Postlude:

Curtis Mayfield

What Wondrous Love Is This - arr. John Carter
Piano: Alberto Santos

Reference and Information **for the week of March 15, 2026**

- ❖ Today - Lent IV - Worship BHC and after the service join with all for coffee and conversation on Level 1.
- ❖ March 18. "Eyes to See" Meditation with Rev Throop on Zoom at 7:30 - 8:00pm.
- ❖ March 22. Lent V - Worship BHC and a special invitation to you for Lunch and the celebration of March Birthdays on Level 1 after the service.

Following the discussion of last Sunday with those involved in the lay-led Thursday Morning Group, it has been decided to conclude this event and to turn over the discussion of future Christian Education events to the Liturgy & Learning Committee. The L&L committee will discuss future directions and possible future learning opportunities following the Annual Congregational Meeting.

As the minister, I wish to thank Lib and Rich Neufeld for their long-term faithful commitment and leadership with the Thursday Morning Group both during the pandemic and following with their use of the CD lectures on everything from World Religions, the Christian Scriptures and their origins, to a study of Church History from Early Christianity to its more recent expressions in North America. A heart felt well done to both of you!

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