



Mountainside United Church

3520 Rue University Montreal, Qc, H3A 2A7

Sunday Worship, 10:30 am

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

Lent V Year A
March 22, 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:

Spiritus Sanctus vivificans - Hildegard von Bingen
Voice: Leah Weitzner

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# 296 *This Is God's Wondrous World*

1. This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;

in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3. This is God's wondrous world:

O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.

This is God's wondrous world:

why should my heart be sad?

Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:

God reigns, let earth be glad!

Opening Prayer:

Most Holy God, Most Loving Creator, Most Living Spirit, we meet again this day as a Community, a Community of Faith.

We come together seeking connections, connections with you, with our neighbours, and ultimately with ourselves.

We pray on this day that your Spirit may reach out to touch, touching our minds and our hearts.

Bring a richer deeper life to both us and our fellowship that we may continue to walk on the path of truth, and love that you have placed before us.

Silent Prayers

God in your love,

Hear our prayer.

Amen

Hymn: MV#144 *Like a Healing Stream*

1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth... like a healing stream.

2. Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need... like a gentle rain.

3. Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.

4. Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide! Like a mighty sea,
like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Epistle : Romans 8: 6 – 11

Reader: Evangeline Flores

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the witness of the Early Church!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm: 130 VU# 853 Part One with refrain (R)

Reader: Evangeline Flores

Refrain : Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

Out of the depths have I called to you.

O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,

O God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you. (R)**

I wait for you, God;

my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God more than the watchers long for morning,
more than the watchers long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope,

for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins. (R)**

@Gospel: John 11: 1 - 45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the *Judeans* were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not

have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The *Judeans* who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the *Judeans* who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the *Judeans* said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the *Judeans* therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

Hymn: MV#169 *When Hands Reach Out*

1. When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.

2. When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God’s dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God’s dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.

3. When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour’s face we’ll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.

Offertory Reflections: Acknowledging How Givings Grow into Lives Changed

Music for Spiritual Centering:

Lord, for thy Tender Mercy's Sake - Richard Farrant / John Hilton
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: *To Everything Turn, Turn, Turn*

The Byrds

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose under Heaven

A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose under Heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose under Heaven

A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace
A time to refrain from embracing

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose under Heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time for love, a time for hate

A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

Benediction:

Postlude:

Burnout Fugue - Alexandra Streliski
Piano: Alberto Santos

Reference and Information
for the week of March 22, 2026

- ❖ TODAY - Lent V - Worship in BHC and you are invited for Lunch and the celebration of March Birthdays on Level 1 after the service.
- ❖ March 22 will be the St. Patrick's Parade, please check your normal route for road closures and times.
- ❖ March 25- Meeting of The Session.
- ❖ March 29- Palm Sunday, Worship at BHC.
- ❖ April 1 - "EYES TO SEE " Meditation with Rev Throop on Zoom 7:30-8:00pm. All are welcome.
- ❖ April 3- GOOD FRIDAY Worship 7:30 pm on Zoom
- ❖ April 5- EASTER SUNDAY Worship at BHC. Communion Service
- ❖ April 19, 2026 - **Annual Congregational Meeting.** The 2025 Annual Report will be available early April. You will receive a copy by email unless you specifically request a paper copy by signing the sheet at coffee hour or by calling the office at 514-486-1165.

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