



Mountainside United Church

ADVENT 1: HOPE, Year A
November 30, 2025

Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice

Holy Communion

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:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - arr. Mark Hayes
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: Hope

(Romans 5 *The Message*)

Reader: Esther Vicente

“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.”

We hope for a future where differences between cultures, languages, peoples, and races are seen as blessings and signs of God's generosity and not the source for fear and hatred.

I hope for the healing of creation and the survival of all species.

We hope for good health, for wholeness of being, for abundance in living.

We now share out loud those things in our hearts that we hope for this holy season.

May this Advent mark the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can dare to hope boldly.

(Candle Lighter Lights the First Blue Advent Candle.)

Amen.

Candle Lighting Hymn: VU# 7 Hope Is a Star vs 1. with Refrain

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

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.

Opening Prayer:

O God, at your table we mark the beginning of our pilgrimage to the City of Bread along with those of the wider family of David.

We begin when the days in this hemisphere are getting shorter and the nights longer, so we need a light to guide us.

O Christ, we begin this journey as the world is still experiencing more violence, more starvation, more oppression of peoples, more warfare, and greater apprehension over the actions of the 'major powers' in a macabre global dance.

**Holy Spirit, help us to be a true people of hope. Help us to not only lift up our hearts in praise but those of our neighbours near and far as well.
Amen.**

Collect: VU# 19 Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Darkness

Kindle a flame
to lighten the dark
and take all fear away

@Hebrew Scripture:

Isaiah 2: 1 - 5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

This is the witness of your people Israel!
Thanks be to God!

Psalm 122 VU p. 845 with Refrain

Reader: Esther Vicente

Refrain: With joy we go to God's own house
and enter with a song.

I was glad when they said to me:

Let us go to the house of God.

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city bound firmly together.

There the tribes go up, the tribes of God,
to give thanks to the name of God, as was decreed for Israel.

**There the thrones of justice stand,
the thrones of David's house. R**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

May those who love you prosper!

**May there be peace within your walls,
prosperity within your palaces!**

For the sake of my kin and friends I say: Peace be with you!

**For the sake of the house of our God,
I will seek your good. R**

Epistle

Romans 13 : 11 – 14a

Reader: Esther Vicente

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the witness of the Early Church!

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: VU #9 People, Look East

1. People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:

give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the bird, is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,

shining beyond the frosty weather,

bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Sermon: The Hills Are Alive with the Sound of?

Rev. Dr Douglas Throop

Offertory Reflections: Acknowledging How Givings Grow into Lives Changed

Music for Silent Reflection:

Advent of Hope - J.D. Wilson, Stephanielynn Buda & Brian Buda
Voices: Leah Weitzner, Colleen Bartley, Joseph Grenier, & John Johnston
Piano: Alberto Santos

Invitation to the Table:

Sharing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

Creed: *(Only Bold Text Read Aloud)*

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world. We believe in
God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Tayo ay hindi nag-iisa, nabubuhay tayo sa
daigdig ng Dios.
Sumasampalataya tayo sa Dios:
na lumalang at lumalalang,

**Tayo ay tinawag upang maging Iglesia:
upang ipagdiwang ang pakikisama ng Dios,
upang mabuhay na pinahahalagahan ang
Nilalang,**

na naparito sa pamamagitan ni Hesus, ang Salita
na nagging laman, upang makipagkasundo
at gawing bago,
na gumagawa sa atin at sa lahat sa
pamamagitan ng Espiritu.
Tumitiwala tayo sa Dios.

upang ibigin at paglingkuran ang kapwas,
upang hanapin ang katarungan at bakahin ang kasamaan,
upang ipahayag si Hesus, na napako sa krus at nabuhay na
maguli, ating hukom at ating pag-asa.
Sa kabuhayan, sa kamatayan, sa kabuhayan sa kabila ng kamatayan,
ang Dios ay kasama natin.
Tayo ay hindi nag-iisa.
Magpasalamat tayo sa Dios.

Communion Hymn: VU# 477 I Come with Joy

1. I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4. The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5. Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to our Sovereign God!

Let us together give God our thanks and praise.

It is right so to do.

Around this small, fragile, planet the faithful praise you on this day for your continued presence among us and symbolically here in this sacrament.

May we too, bring together the languages and cultures of the world in your praise and service as we begin our pilgrimage to The City of Bread.

May our experience of faith on the road of life move us to greater spiritual awareness, greater compassion, and greater respect for our fragile planet home.

O God sustain us in the exercise of our calling to be your disciples as we take our first steps on our journey to Bethlehem.

Let what we do here at this hour remind us of the cost of freedom for we now recall Jesus last supper with his followers.

As we retell this story symbolically, now, here with us
Jesus takes bread and offers you thanks.
He breaks the bread, and gives it to all disciples, saying,
‘Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.’

At the end of the supper, Jesus takes the cup,
again, offers you thanks, and gives it to all disciples saying:
‘Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.’

By your grace we are made one with Christ, and so we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves as a single, holy, and living offering.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your life-giving power, she may enable them to be for us the presence of your Christ.

Holy and Loving God, we entreat you to hear the prayers we offer you on behalf of those in need, whose name, or need, or circumstances we now voice in this sacred assembly.

God hear our prayer.

And in your love answer.

Remember your Church throughout the world.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,

and preserve her in all peace and charity.
Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen and amen!

Prayer of Jesus (Sung):

**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.**

Fraction and Distribution:

Post Communion Prayer:

Almighty and Everlasting God, we give you thanks that you have granted us the presence of your beloved one Jesus Christ.

**Help us so to walk the ways of love that Christ might evermore dwell in us and us in Christ,
to the glory of your most holy name. 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.

Benediction

Postlude:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - Rowland H. Prichard, arr. Mark Hayes

Piano: Alberto Santos

Reference and Information **for the week of November 30, 2025**

- TODAY we begin our Christmas Season with Advent 1- HOPE. Welcome to all and join with everyone on Level 1 for coffee and conversation after the Service.
- Meditation with Rev Throop @ 6:30-7:00pm on December 3.
- Sunday December 7- Advent 2- PEACE.
- Sunday December 14- Advent 3- JOY. Pink attire Sunday.
- DECEMBER 14 @3:00pm. JAZZ CHRISTMAS CONCERT. Join with Joy - Birks Heritage Chapel.
- The Thursday morning Zoom study group will resume December 4th and 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 Programme - 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.

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