

<u>This Week at MRMC</u>		
Tuesday	9:30 am	Forever in Motion
	1:00 pm	Pickleball
	6:00 pm	Pickleball
	7:00 pm	SPT Meeting
Wednesday	10am-5pm	Westmount School community hampers in Gym
	6-8 pm	AA Meeting in Basement (Hosts: Wilf and Cheryl)
Thursday	1:30 pm	Pickleball
	6:00 pm	Pickleball
Friday	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday	10 am	Sunday Worship Service
	1-4 pm	JRAM in Sanctuary Rental in Gym

94 Calls to Action were prepared following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings. Let's use them to inform our prayers and actions. (Complete list Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.)

EDUCATION-

7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

8. We call upon the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserves and those First Nations children being educated off reserves.

Today's Service

Worship Leader: Claire E F
 Song Leader: Verna O
 Pianist: Val R
 PowerPoint: Kevin C
 Video: Wes E

Welcome to Mount Royal Mennonite Church

Learning to live - through relationships with Jesus,
 our neighbours and each other

Worship Service 10:00 am

Vol. 58

December 19, 2021

No. 51

Prelude		
Carol Singing	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	VT #249
	<i>Joy to the World</i>	VT #240
	<i>Love Has Come</i>	VT #258

Announcements
 Silence

ADVENT 4 - THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO TURN

INVITING THE MYSTERY

Gathering Words		
Gathering Prayer		
Gathering Song	<i>Hope is a Candle</i>	VT #221
Psalm 80: 1-7		Marianne S
Music	<i>O holy night</i>	Melody, Shelley & Verna

ENGAGING THE MYSTERY

Story for all Ages		Trevor S
We Sing	<i>My soul cries out (v 1,2,4)</i>	VT #412
Peace Lamp		
Scripture	Micah 5: 1-5a Luke 1: 39-45	
Sermon	<i>'Peacemaker for the world'</i>	Garth E F
Music	<i>The infant Jesus/ O Come let us adore him</i>	Melody, Shelley & Verna

PROCLAIMING THE MYSTERY

Offering		
Sharing our stories		
Sharing our prayers		
Sending Song	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	VT #245
Sending words		

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD! Amen

Postlude

Joys & Concerns

- **Pray for:** *Maureen G, Eric and Doris Q, Betty U, Roy W, Anne E, Marg W, Alex and Joel S, Eric and Verna O, Agatha W, Hedio B, Al and Anne P*
- **Families of the week:** *Matt, Mattie and Atheena E, Hedio B, Zack D*
- We give thanks for last week's offering of \$6,256, given freely as we learn to live through relationships with Jesus, our neighbours and each other.
- Please pray for the MRMC ministries as some positions come to an end. The Chair position of the Education Ministry ends in December. Please consider volunteering for this role. Speak to Rita, Garth or Claire if you're interested in this ministry role.

MRMC Coming Events and Notes

- There will be a Blue Christmas service tonight at 7pm via Zoom. The Blue Christmas service is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. See below for Zoom link
Topic: Blue Christmas Service Zoom Meeting
Time: Dec 19, 2021 07:00 PM Saskatchewan
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81246145519>
Meeting ID: 812 4614 5519
- **Dec 24:** There will be an in person Christmas Eve Service also available on livestream starting at 7pm.
- **Jan 8, 2022** – Don't forget to check the bulletin board next to Garth's office or the MRMC Missions & Services webpage for your opportunity to help serve meals (or donate) at Friendship Inn.
<https://mountroyalmennonite.org/missions-and-service>
- Women of Mount Royal MC, are you interested in meeting together with friends (well known and yet to become) for Zoom link conversation and study twice a month? Starting on January 13, 2022 @ 6:30 pm we will begin our study of Carol Penner's *Everyday Worship*. We would be delighted if you would join us. Let Claire know if you are interested.
- **December 31, 2021 at 9 am**, is the deadline for donations to be receipted for 2021. All donations must be received at the church office by that time in order to be deposited in 2021, and receipted for 2021. This includes donations by tithe.ly and etransfer. Tithe.ly donations typically take 48 to 72 hours from donation date to deposit date.
- Gwen will be on holidays from Dec 25- Jan 3. Len will be covering for Gwen. Garth and Claire will be in the office Dec 29 and 30. Zach is on holidays until Jan 4.
- We are in need of some volunteers to help with the Junior Sunday School class. If you are interested, please contact Sharon, Garth or Claire.

Conference and Community Events

- a) **January 7 & 8, 2022, RJC Tournament of Memories (Basketball & Hockey)** - Alumni & friends of RJC are invited to our annual basketball & hockey tournament. Basketball will take place on Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8. Those interested in basketball should register by Dec. 28 by email to Denelda Fast (deneldafast@hotmail.com). Hockey will take place only on Saturday, January 8. Those interested in hockey are encouraged to contact Paul Ayres (paul.ayres@hotmail.com). Questions for the school can be directed to (306) 232-4222.
- b) **January 21, 2022, RJC Open House & Friday Night Live** - Prospective students and families are invited to RJC for a look into life as a student at RJC. There will be campus tours and RJC's annual Friday Night Live student coffee-house. Register by email to admissions@rjc.sk.ca or call (306) 232-4222.
- c) The CMU Christmas Concert (from December 11) is available to view on their web site: <https://www.cmu.ca/community/christmas>
- d) **MCC Connects:** MCC is seeking young adult participants for its SALT program. Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a variety of positions in fields such as education, agriculture, healthcare, information technology, peace and more! Learn more: <https://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/salt>.
- e) **MC Sask Council is pleased to announce the hiring of Josh Wallace as Interim Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan.** Josh has served MC Sask as Church Engagement Minister since 2020, providing leadership and wisdom in the areas of visioning and mission, and Council is grateful for his willingness to increase his role during this time of transition. Josh will begin his .6 FTE position on January 1, 2022, allowing for overlap time with outgoing Executive Minister Ryan Siemens, who concludes his work with MC Sask on Jan. 31, 2022. The interim position is for up to 6 months, pending the search for a new Executive Minister. For the Executive Minister job description and additional details visit www.mcsask.ca or contact Andrea Enns-Gooding at searchcommittee@mcsask.ca.
- f) A Very Shekinah Christmas will happen online, starting on December 23, 2021. While you are waiting, we are bringing back last year's Shekinah 12 Days of Christmas (because it's environmentally friendly to reuse) as well as updates on 2021 and a look ahead to 2022. Head over to: <https://shekinah.ca/events/2021/a-very-shekinah-christmas-2021> to watch things unfold.

Angels We Have Heard on High VT 249

Text: French, *Nouveau recueil de cantiques* (France), 1855; trans. anon.; alt. Earl Marlatt (USA), *New Church Hymnal*, 1937

Music: French traditional, *Nouveau recueil de antiques*, 1855

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

2, Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Joy to the World VT 240

Text: based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts (England), *Psalm of David*, 1719, alt.

Music: Lowell Mason, *Occasional Psalm and Hymn tunes*, 1836

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Love Has Come VT 258

Text; Ken Bible (USA)

Music: attr. Nicolas Saboly (France), 17thc; harm. Ken Bible

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Love has come - a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises;
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Saviour!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!
Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.

Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life ever lasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Hope Is a Candle VT 211

Text: Richard Leach (USA), 1994, © 1995 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.
Music: Scottish traditional; acc. James E. Clemens (USA), 2006
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Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,
never consumed though it burns through the years;
dim in the daylight of power and priv'lege –
when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,
threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed.
Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows –
violence and force their dead-end course.

Love is a candle whose light makes a circle,
where ev'ry face is the face of a friend.
Widen the circle by sharing and giving –
God's holy dare: love ev'rywhere.

Joy is a candle of mystery and laughter,
mystery of light that is born in the dark;
laughter at hearing the voice of an angel,
ever so near, casting out fear.

Christ is the light that the prophets awaited.
Christ is the lion, the lamb, and the child.
Christ is the love and the mystery and laughter –
candles, make way! Christ is the day.

My Soul Cries Out VT 412

Text: based on Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney (USA)
Music: Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney
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1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about the turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
and the world is about to turn!

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
and the world is about to turn!

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast;
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound, '

'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near
and the world is about to turn!

O Little Town of Bethlehem VT 245

Text: Phillips Brooks (USA), 1868, *Sunday School Services and Hymn Book*, 1870,
alt.

Music: Lewis H. Redner (USA), 1868, *The Church Porch, `A Service Book and
Hymnal for Sunday Schools*, 1874

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars o by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep,
the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing – let “Glory!” ring
with peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heav'ns.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!