

MOUNTAIN VIEW UNITED CHURCH
85 MacBeath Ave., Moncton NB E1C 6Z3
Third Sunday of Advent-December 15, 2024

Worship Leader
Director of Music
Office Administrator
Custodian



Rev. Jacob Shaw
Jason Noble
Liz Simmons
Carson McDavid

Prelude/Gathering Music

God is good, **all the time...** all the time, **God is good.**

Words of Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Song: Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending VU25

- 1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.**
- 2 Every eye shall then behold you,
robed in awesome majesty;
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
pierced, and nailed you to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**3 Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!**

**4 Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before you,
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting Christ, come down.**

Lighting The Advent Candle of Peace

Our hearts rejoice with hope in Christ and peace by resting in the Father.

Joy is coming, peace will abound, and hope is found.

Our joy is in the Lord, our welfare and our potential dwell in God.

How we embrace these feelings of joy and celebration.

We await the birth of our Lord

Our hearts anticipate the arrival of our Saviour.

Advent Hymn A Candle Is Burning (Vs3) VU#6

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,

a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

**Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

[Light the Candle of Peace]

Opening Prayer

Lord of Hope, Prince of Peace, Joy of the Earth, make our hearts ready to celebrate, make our souls prepared to proclaim the Good News. It is Good News to know that we have new life in the Lord's eternal Kingdom. Prepare us to worship with festive longing. Amen.

Children come forward during the signing of this song

Children's Gathering Song

Go, Tell It on the Mountain VU#43

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R**

**3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R**

Ministry of Music

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we seek the serenity of hope, peace, joy, and love, as we long for the good news of Christmas Day. Though we are called to joy, it can be hard when we feel the burdens of this world. Our minds can doubt, and our fortitude can crumble. Lord, by Your Grace, restore our joy and remind us of the Good News that we have been blessed with.

(Silence for private prayer)

Words of Assurance

Scripture readings:

Psalm 9:8-19 read by Sharon Ruet

John 3:1-8 read by Rev. Shaw

Luke 3:7-18 read by Rev. Shaw

Message

Hymn Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VU#8

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,

of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.

It came a blossom bright,

amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

**2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.**

To show God's love aright

she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the night.

Invitation to Share Offering

***Offering Song In the Bleak Midwinter Vs4 VU#55**

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what can I give him – give my heart.

Offertory Prayer

Lord bless these offerings and let your people's gifts forge a ministry that will bring joy to the world.

Prayers of the People

Offertory, Personal Prayers, Lord's Prayer, Given to God

Hymn Joy to the World VU#59

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 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.

**3 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.**

**4 He rules the earth 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.**

Benediction

Our anticipation grows, and joy has inspired new life in us.

**Let this Advent journey deepen our love for God and
God's creation.**

***Sung Advent Benediction Hope Is a Star (Vs3)VU#7**

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,

telling the world that the Saviour is born.

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.**

Postlude † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Join us today in the church hall following the Service of Worship for Coffee & Conversation.

Monday: Dec 16th UCW Esther Unit will meet at the home of Lee Purves for a Christmas potluck.

Saturday Dec. 21st Blue Christmas Service 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service 6:30 p.m.

Church calendars are available \$8.00 each, call the office at 506-857-4817 if you wish to reserve a calendar.

Offering: Your offering will be collected during the Service of Worship. If you would like church envelopes please call the church office at 857-4817. Donations may also be made by e-transfer to mtviewteller@gmail.com

If our Church Service has to be cancelled due to severe wind and rain weather and winter storms, just call the office number 506-857-4817 to find out from the phone message. Thank you.

Please have your Annual Reports emailed to the office by January 7th, 2025. Email: mtviewunited@rogers.com

Community Dinner Cards that you can use as Christmas gifts are available in the narthex.

Psalm 9:8-19

He rules the world in righteousness

and judges the peoples with equity.

⁹ The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who
seek you.

¹¹ Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion;
proclaim among the nations what he has done.

¹² For he who avenges blood remembers;
he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.

¹³ Lord, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,

¹⁴ that I may declare your praises
in the gates of Daughter Zion,
and there rejoice in your salvation.

¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.

¹⁶ The Lord is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their
hands.

¹⁷ The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.

¹⁸ But God will never forget the needy;
the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

¹⁹ Arise, Lord, do not let mortals triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.

John 3:1-8

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water.

But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.