

**Mountain View United Church  
85 MacBeath Ave., Moncton NB E1C 6Z3  
December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

**Worship Leader  
Pageant Leader  
Music Leader  
Office Admin  
Custodian**



**Rev. Jacob Shaw  
Sarah Nelson  
Jason Noble  
Sarah Shaw  
Eduardo Nerona**

**Gathering Music**

**Words of Welcome/Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship/Lighting of the Candle of Love:**

Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow  
the way prepared for us.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth  
among those who please God.**

Once again the world is surprised at a manger, as  
the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

**Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.**

There in Bethlehem and here today at Mountain View United, we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

**Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Amazing God, on a night so long ago, You gathered a group of unlikely outsiders - Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and others to be part of a great miracle: the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Today You have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines with Your Good News. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of folk to become a holy people, a community of faith. Help us receive your renewing love as we praise You for offering us salvation in the name of Jesus, Who taught us to pray:**

**Lord's Prayer**

## **Gathering Hymn: A Candle Is Burning VU 6 v 4**

**A candle is burning, a candle of love, a candle to point us to heaven above. A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth, for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

## **Where Are We: Advent 4**

### **Invitation to Share Offering Musical Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

**God thank you for the gifts you have given us. Help us to see these gifts and to share them with others. We ask your blessing on these gifts that we offer today. Thank you for your love, mercy and grace. We pray these things in your name, Amen.**

## **Offering of Personal Prayers to God**

### **Christmas Pageant**

**In the Genesis story, we hear that God created the world with language. God said, “Let there be light.” God said, “Let there be night and day.” God said, “It**

is good.” Then, in the first chapter in the Gospel of John, we hear how this language, the Word, is with God and Jesus.

### **Scripture:**

**John 1:1-4, 9 - 13, 18** Read By Allan Borden

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

## **Hymn: This Little Light of Mine**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,  
everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,  
everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, let it  
shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it  
shine, let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna  
let it shine, let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm  
gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it  
shine.**

In the 1st chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we learn of Mary's willingness to work with God even though what is being asked of her will not be easy. Being pregnant when not married is against the rules where and when she lives. There are some very hard consequences for breaking these rules – the worst consequence being death.

**Scripture: Luke 1:26 – 38** read by Rev. Jacob

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative

is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**Hymn: Here I am**

**VU 509 (v. 1 & 3)**

- 1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**
- R. Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**
- 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them; my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? R**

The place of Jesus’ birth is in Bethlehem, a small town a few miles south of Jerusalem. But Bethlehem

was not Joseph or Mary's hometown. They had to go to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus had made a law that everyone must be counted in the towns where their great-great grandparents (or ancestors) had been born. This was a long trip by foot (about 60 miles or 3 days). It would've been even more difficult since Mary was pregnant. When Mary and Joseph finally made it to Bethlehem, the hotel was already filled with people and there was no place for Mary and Joseph to stay. But there was a stable, where the animals rested, that Mary and Joseph were allowed to rest in as well.

### **Hymn: Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 (v. 1&2)**

*- Mary and Joseph come to front -*

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and**



**praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

In this stable, Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus.

**Hymn: Away in a Manger      VU 69 (v. 1&2)**  
***- Angel with star comes to front –***

- 1    Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2    The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

Now, it was night time and in the fields nearby, shepherds were watching their flocks. Then an angel stood before the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around all of them. And the shepherds were terrified. But the angel of the Lord said to them: “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. For on to you is born

this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Immediately after the angel stopped speaking, there were suddenly many angels praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

### **Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing VU 48**

*- All angels come to front –*

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!' Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'**

**R Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate**

**deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus,  
our Emmanuel! R**

**3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail,  
the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all  
he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no  
more may die, born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. R**

Then the angels left the shepherds and the shepherds took a deep breath (or maybe five or six deep breaths). Then they looked at each other and said: “We better go see this baby!”

**Hymn: O, Come All Ye Faithful VU 60**

*- All shepherds come to front –*

**1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and  
triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to  
Bethlehem: come and behold him, born the  
King of angels;**

**R O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore  
him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the  
Lord.**

- 2 God of God, light of light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb; very God, begotten, not created: R**
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God in the highest: R**
- 4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R**
- 5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R**

So, this stable that Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying was, as said earlier, home to many of the village animals. And these animals must've been pretty curious as to what a baby was doing in their feeding trough. Not to mention all the other people who were suddenly in their home. It's quite likely that these animals may have gathered around Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the shepherds for a closer look.

## **Hymn: Do You Hear What I Hear? (verses 1 &2)**

***- All animals come to front –***

- 1. Said the night wind to the little lamb, do you see what I see? Do you see what I see? Way up in the sky, little lamb. Do you see what I see? Do you see what I see? A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite, with a tail as big as a kite.**
- 2. Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear? Do you hear what I hear? Ringing in the sky, shepherd boy. Do you hear what I hear? Do you hear what I hear? A song, a song, high above the tree, with a voice as big as the sea, with a voice as big as the sea.**

Now when the shepherds saw Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable, and saw that what the angel had said to them was true, they went out and made it known to everyone they met. Which means it's very possible that some of the townspeople went to the stable that very night to see and maybe even help Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus because of what the shepherds had told them.

## **Hymn: Go Tell it on the Mountain VU 43**

*- All townspeople come to front –*

**R. 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**

Well look at us! What a full and busy stable we are! In all this busyness and moving around, it is possible to forget why we came here in the first place. So I remind us today that we celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus. It is exciting that Jesus was born in a manger. But what is even more exciting is that 'Baby-Jesus' was born of a mother, just like us, and grew up, just like us. Then, when he was 'All grown

up-Jesus', he chose to live God's way, and said to us, "You can do this too and I'll show you how – just follow me."

***- Photo Opportunity -***

**Spoken Benediction:** This is the Good News today, and why we celebrate Christmas, because Christmas is the story that reminds us that we can all choose to live God's way, to live as God's sons and daughters. So let us go from here today, giving thanks to God for Jesus and reminding others that the gift of Jesus is that he chose to live God's way and lived to show us how we can do the exact same thing. Amen

Merry Christmas Everyone!

**Benediction: Joy to the World VU 59**

***- All actors return to their seats –***

**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.**

## **Postlude**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Join us after service today for Coffee and Conversation in the hall.**

### **This Week at Mountain View**

**Today: Blue Christmas Service 7:00 p.m.**

Join us for a contemplative service on the longest night of the year. Our service is designed to create space for the acknowledgment of the heaviness often carried during the holiday season, offering hope that Jesus gives.

**Wednesday: Christmas Eve Service 6:30 p.m.**

Come enjoy familiar carols, hymns, and Rev. Jacob's reflection while we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

### **Office Holiday Hours**

Dec 23: 9:00 – 12:00

Dec 30: 9:00 – 12:00

Dec 24: CLOSED

Dec 31: 9:00 – 12:00

Dec 25: CLOSED

Jan 1/26: CLOSED

Dec 26: CLOSED

Jan 2/26: CLOSED

Dec 29: 9:00 – 12:00

**Please have your Annual Reports emailed to the office by January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

**Anniversary Items** – if you loaned the church items for our Anniversary service and have not yet picked them up, please contact the office to retrieve your items and photos!

**Thank You** - Mountain View UCW wishes to thank everyone for their generous response to the Christmas Stocking Fundraiser. May you be blessed as your donation blesses others.

**Keys** – reminder to please contact the office with your key number and reason it is needed (or return it if not needed).

**Mitten Tree** - The mitten tree is up and waiting for the mittens that many of you have knit for children who do not have any to wear this winter. They will be collected and distributed to schools in our neighborhood for dispersal to students in need. Thank you to all who donate to this project.

**Calendars** – now available in the church office for \$8.00 each. Organize your 2026 with beautiful Canadian Churches!

**Parent-Child Program:** The parent-child nights are changing to the First Sunday of the Month immediately following Coffee & Conversation. All families with school-age (or younger) children are invited to stay for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

**Financial Update** - At the end of November we were in a deficit of \$9,700, due in large part to unexpected roof repairs of \$6,100. We also wish to remind all that the recent renovation project had no financial impact on our operating results as it was financed through separate fund raising and the Capital Improvement Fund. With only one Sunday remaining in 2025 please remember that donations for 2025 must be received by December 31st. Please consider our financial position and give as you are able.

**Grocery Cards Available** for Sobeys and Superstore (\$25, \$50 or \$100) every Sunday and can be purchased with cash, cheques, or e-transfer. Superstore cards can also be used at Independent, No Frills, and Wholesalers Club.

**If you or you know someone that would like a home or hospital visit from Rev. Shaw please contact the church office. Please note that due to hospital policy, Rev. Shaw is unable to visit patients without an express request from the patient or their next-of-kin. Home visits and/or phone calls can also be arranged by advising the office.**

**Contact Us:**

Phone: 506-857-4817

Email: [office@mountainviewunited.ca](mailto:office@mountainviewunited.ca)

Website: [mountainviewunited.ca](http://mountainviewunited.ca)

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