

These are expressions of a truth  
which remains beyond the reach of all theory  
in the depths of God's love for humankind.

**They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement  
of God's reconciling work.**

The risen Christ is the savior of all people.

**Those joined to him by faith are set right with God  
and commissioned to serve as God's reconciling community.**

**Christ is head of this community, the church,  
which began with the apostles  
and continues through all generations.**

**\*Hymn 295**

“Go to the World”

**\*The Charge** (responsive)

**Mark 12:28-31**

Which commandment is the first of all?

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
And with all your soul, and with all your mind,  
And with all your strength.**

And the second is this:

**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
There is no other commandment greater than these.**

**\*The Blessing**

*\*The congregation is invited to stand.*

We welcome our guest musician this morning **Dr. Robert Boer.**

**A hearing loop is active; set hearing aid to “T-coil.”**

Scripture passages are read from the NRSV. **The Prayer of Confession** is reprinted  
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MPC is an Earth Care congregation.

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**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2018, 10:00 A.M.**

**Morning Meditation**

Henri-Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)

*We do not have much time to gladden  
the hearts of those who travel with us.  
So be swift to love, make haste to be kind,  
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

**Chimes of the Trinity**

**Ritual of Fellowship**

**Voluntary**

“We Gather Together”

arr. Healey Willan

**\*Call to Worship**

from Psalm 45

My heart overflows with a goodly theme;  
I address my verses to my sovereign.

**Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.  
Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;  
you love righteousness and hate wickedness.**

Therefore God, your God,  
has anointed you with the oil of gladness.

**Let us worship the LORD!**

**\*Hymn 645**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

**Loving, righteous God,  
our hearts are defiled with the wickedness you despise.  
Deceiving ourselves, we abandon your commandments.  
Hypocrites, we honor you with our lips  
while our hearts are far from you.  
Cleanse our hearts from evil intentions;  
cleanse our tongues from evil words  
so that our worship may be pure and undefiled  
and we may live with you in love for others. Amen.**

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Kyrie Eleison 577** (unison)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

**Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Response 587**

“Alleluia!”

CELTIC ALLELUIA

**Reading from the Old Testament**

Isaiah 59:1-15

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Mueller

*Choral Ensemble*

**Reading from the Gospel**

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Hymn 451**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

**Reading from the New Testament Epistles**

James 1:17-27

**The Sermon**

“Defiled and Undefiled”

Keith Grogg

**Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.**

**Offering of our Tithes and Gifts**

**Offertory**

“O for the Wings of a Dove”

Mendelsohn  
arr. E.A.Dicks

**\*Doxology 607**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,  
Praise Triune God Whom we adore. Amen!**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Confession of 1967

God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ  
is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways.

**It is called the sacrifice of a lamb,  
a shepherd’s life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest;  
ransom of a slave, payment of debt,  
vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty,  
and victory over the powers of evil.**