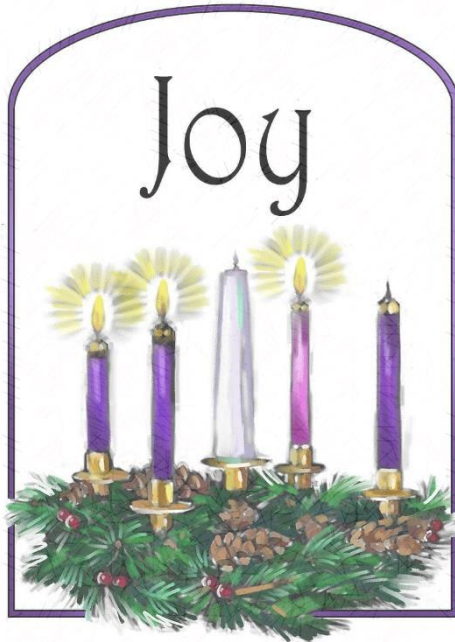


# Cochrane Street United Church

81 Cochrane Street ♦ St. John's, NL ♦ A1C 3L7



## **December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022** **The Third Sunday of Advent** **WHITE GIFT SUNDAY**

Guest Presiders: Rev. Karen Burse  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier  
Minister of Music: Patricia Young  
Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson  
Technical Operations: John Williams

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# **GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

\*please stand as you are able

\*\*bold is in unison

Worship Leader: Rev. Karen Bursej

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, and the island of Newfoundland as the ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We would also like to recognize the Inuit of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut and the Innu of Nitassinan, and their ancestors, as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful relationships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation and honour this beautiful land together.

**PRELUDE:** Bring a Torch

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please see your congregational email for detailed announcements.*

**INTROIT:           Come Thou Long-expected Jesus vs. 1    # 2 VU**  
**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,**  
**born to set thy people free:**  
**from our fears and sins release us,**  
**let us find our rest in thee.**

## **\*LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE & PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

The light of Christ is with us.

**Here. Now. In this place.**

In Christ, although we are many,

**We are one.**

Let our hospitality towards each other reflect God's love.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

## **REFLECTIVE MUSIC VU 7: Hope Is a Star v. 3**

**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.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Be patient!

The time is coming

when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus,

**when we will sing and rejoice,**

**dancing with everlasting joy.**

But for now, be patient,

as we wait in this time called Advent,

**when God speaks through dreams and visions,**

**and we are invited to dance**

**the holy way into the kingdom.**

For this is Advent, and we join together

**to celebrate the Creator of hope, peace, joy and love.**

**\*PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

God of Advent:

**you gather the ignored, so you can accomplish the unexpected for a world which often doesn't care; with bread broken into pieces, you restore your shattered creation;**

**Through you, those whose voices are silenced, hear the whispers of angels on hillsides and in shelters; by you, those who are knocked over, lead the way into your kingdom; with you, those who wander in shadows, are clasped tight in your love.**

**You pour the promises of the Word into the shy and silent so they can sing carols of grace; you stretch out your hand to all in despair's exile, to place them on the holy way of hope; you gather up the scraps of our scattered fears, and by your Word, our emptiness is filled with immeasurable grace.**

**We come to you in worship ready to open our eyes to your vision, our hearts to your compassion and our will to your urging.**

**In Jesus' name we pray AMEN**

**\*HYMN: Joy Comes with the Dawn**

**# 166 VU**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Readers: Stephen, Charlotte, and Anne Jewczyk

*Light Candle*

Worship Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question "What brings you joy?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Adult: A clean kitchen

Older Adult: Sand between my toes

Child: Being outside

Teenager: Sleeping in my own bed after a night away.

Adult: Having a camera in my hands

Older Adult: My partner's laugh

Teenager: Mountain air

Child: When my parents pick me up

Adult: The end of my to-do list

Older Adult: Hugs from my niece and nephew

Teenager: Baby giggles

Child: My cat

Adult: Putting my hands in the garden

Older Adult: A chord resolved

Teenager: Stargazing

Child: Bedtime books

Adult: A warm cup of coffee with friends

Older Adult: My new granddaughter

Teenager: Lingering at the table after dinner

Child: Time with my family

Older adult: Today we light the candle of Joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings. May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but also closer to God.

Pink candle for joy is lit.

Older Adult: Family of Faith, what brings you joy? Amen

### **Sung Response: "The Holy Fire of Advent" v. 3**

TUNE: Greensleeves English Ballad, 16 cent.

**The pulse of joy flies through our veins  
the grace of God flows in us.  
Its steady thrum helps us become  
disciples following Jesus.  
Hold fast the Spirit's way,  
though evil holds such a strong sway.  
Embrace new life in Christ  
the holy fire of Advent.**

*Elana Keppel Levy, 2022*

## LEARNING TOGETHER:

### OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

#### \*OFFERTORY HYMN VU 81: As With Gladness Men of Old vs. 3

As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Accept, O God, this money offered, these gifts given, the goodwill of our hearts, and the love, faith and service to others that they represent. May they help to do your work in our world, that disappointment may be turned to hope, and worry to anticipation, as we await with wonder the birth of Christ. Amen.

**ANTHEM:** All Bells in Paradise, *by John Rutter*

### GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Holy God, We come to your Scripture today hoping that it will feel a bit like an open door, like Elizabeth welcoming Mary, like coming home. We want to fall into it. We want to find sanctuary here. We want to breathe easier just hearing these words. And we want to find ourselves laughing because this good news is just too good to keep inside. So hover close to us now, we pray. Open the door to our hearts so that we might find sanctuary in your words. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 35: 1-10

The Joy of the Redeemed

#### SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 3:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth after the Annunciation

#### RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:47-55 (pg. 898 VU, Refrain 1)

The Magnificat

\*HYMN: Mary, Woman of the Promise # 16 VU

SERMON:

## **HYMN: Mary Did you Know?**

Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
would one day walk on water?**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
would save our sons and daughters?**

**Did you know that your baby boy  
has come to make you new;**

**This Child that you delivered  
will soon deliver you?**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
will give sight to a blind man?**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
would calm a storm with His hand?**

**Did you know that your baby boy  
has walked where angels trod,**

**And when you kiss your little baby  
you've kissed the face of God?**

**The blind will see, the deaf will hear,**

**the dead will live again,**

**the lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
the praises of the Lamb!**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
is Lord of all creation?**

**Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
will one day rule the nations?**

**Did you know that your baby boy**

**was Heaven's perfect Lamb,**

**and the sleeping Child you're holding  
is the great, the Great I AM?**

## **GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*HYMN:**

**Hark the Glad Sound**

**# 29 VU**

### **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

**Holy God, Dreamer of dreams,**

**We offer Cochrane Street United Church to you. We are your**

**people, this is your church. We come to you seeking your**

**guidance, your purpose, your vision. Align our will with yours, so**

**that we will be willing to do whatever it takes to carry out your**

**plan. We ask you to break through in new ways in our church.**

Show us the great ministry you have in store for us. Help us dream your dreams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, giving us the vision, boldness, and confidence to do all that you call us to do. Amen.

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

**\*SUNG BENEDICTION VU # 2: Come Thou Long-expected Jesus vs. 4**  
**By thine own eternal Spirit**  
**rule in all our hearts alone;**  
**by thine all-sufficient merit**  
**raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**POSTLUDE:** Advent Works, *by Lahenbauer*

*Please take your bulletins with you when you leave the pew.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DEC 11: CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey, WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

**DEC 11: *Community Christmas Tree Lighting & Carol Singing***  
***4:00pm, Songs & Stories of Labrador***  
***5:00pm, Cochrane Street patio area***

DEC 18: CSUC – Church Council, LESSONS & CAROLS

Saturday, DEC 24: CSUC – Rev. Oliver Dingwell, NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
9:00pm, Candles, Carols, Communion

DEC 25: CSUC joining Cowan Heights

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** If you wish to have an announcement included in the bulletin, please have it into the office by Thursday at noon.

**No SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE!** A friendly reminder that members of our congregation are sensitive to scented products. Thank you for helping.

**PASTORAL COVERAGE FOR CSUC:** While Cochrane Street United Church is without a minister, Rev. Oliver Dingwell will be covering all pastoral emergencies and funerals. He can be reached at (709) 640-4632 or by email at: [odingwell@cowanheightsunited.ca](mailto:odingwell@cowanheightsunited.ca). If Rev. Oliver is not available, please contact Paula Reynolds [pt2reynolds@gmail.com](mailto:pt2reynolds@gmail.com).

## **SONGS AND STORIES OF CHRISTMAS IN LABRADOR:**

Featuring Deantha Edmunds, Eva Obed, Samantha Saksagiak, Kilautiup Songuninga and a brand new Inuit Choir! Following the concert, at 5:00 PM, there will be a neighbourhood tree lighting and singalong on the front steps, with hot chocolate and cookies! Sunday **December 11 at 4:00 PM**  
More info and tickets at: [christmasinlabrador.eventbrite.ca](http://christmasinlabrador.eventbrite.ca)

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS:** Just a friendly reminder that Christmas Memorials need to be received into the office by Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

**NEXT MEETING OF CHURCH COUNCIL** is scheduled for Monday, December 12, at 7pm via ZOOM. If anyone has a matter they wish to bring to the attention of Council, please contact Stephen Jewczyk Council Chair at [sjewczyk@gmail.com](mailto:sjewczyk@gmail.com).



**2023 CHURCH CALENDARS** can now be picked up at the church office, available at a cost of \$6.00. To place an order, please contact the Church Office at [info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com) or 722-3023.

**THE COMMUNITY HALL RENOVATIONS:** Work on the community hall is almost fully completed. The community hall is once again available for church related functions. Bookings to reserve the space will be through FIRST LIGHT. Should you need access to the building, please for the moment continue to contact the church office ([info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com), 722-3023) or First Light (754-2532) before arriving so we can let you in through the Minister's entrance/laneway or the church doors. Your patience and cooperation during this period has been greatly appreciated.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:** As per Canada Revenue Agency, only contributions received before December 31 will be included on 2022 official receipts.

**VOLUNTEER REQUEST:** Council has started the updating of the Historical Roll for CSUC. This project is a requirement for all pastoral charges. Linda Bowden, CSUC's archivist, is providing invaluable information and leadership for the project. Volunteers are reviewing the lists of persons on the Roll and contributing valuable additional information to Council. Anyone interested in assisting with the project should contact Brian Johnston who is the lead for Council with this project, through the church office at 722-3023 or [info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com).

**Christmas Decorations Donation Request:** The Sri Lankan Association of Newfoundland and Labrador is a non-profit organization that is planning to have a Christmas gathering and trying to create a Christmas environment to welcome newcomers to Canada. Ornaments, garlands, lights, Christmas linens or table runners, wreaths/swags, or Christmas dinnerware would be most appreciated. If you can help, please drop off items by Sunday, December 11, at Cochrane Centre during CSUC office hours or on Sunday (10:00am – 12:00pm).

**'Till The Season Comes 'Round Again – Monday, December 12,** at 7:00pm: An evening of Christmas music with Newman Sound Men's Choir. More info and tickets at: [newmansound.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca/newmansound)

**Tom Jackson LIVE - Stories, Songs and Santa Causes – Friday, December 16,** at 7:30pm: An evening of story and song, in the Christmas spirit, with a national treasure! More info and tickets at [santacauses.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca/santacauses)

**a Merry Little Jazz East Christmas – Saturday, December 17,** 7:30 pm: Swing into Christmas with Jazz East Big Band - a traditional Jazz Orchestra. More info and tickets at: [jazzeastchristmas.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca/jazzeastchristmas)