

*Poinsettias in the sanctuary are from June & Barry Hatfield*

# Cochrane Street United Church

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



## **December 24, 2022** **Christmas Eve Communion Service** **9:00 p.m.**

Presider: The Rev. Oliver Dingwell, B.Mus., M.Div.

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

Technical Operations: John Williams

(t) 709-722-3023      (f) 709-722-3260

[info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com)

[www.cochranestreetuc.com](http://www.cochranestreetuc.com)

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Thank you for joining us at Cochrane Street United Church of our Christmas Eve Communion Service. Our Service this evening will proceed unannounced and as written in the Order of Service.*

*You are invited to stand as you are able when indicated by \* and to join in the **bold text** as printed in the Order of Service.*

Presider: The Rev. Oliver Dingwell  
Guest Musicians: Sarah McDonald & Abra Whitney

### PRELUDE:

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**\*PROCESSIONAL CAROL: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*** #60VU

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

**God of God, light of light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: *The McMaster Family*

Over a hundred people, from ages two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “My story is . . .” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers . . .

Tonight we tell the story that we hear every year—the story of Christ’s birth, the story of love made flesh. It’s a story that weaves through every generation. It’s a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

*The centre white candle is lit*

Let us pray . . .

**Tonight we light the Christ candle,  
because from generation to generation,  
our story belongs to God.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE: *The Holy Fire of Advent*

**The child is here, the mystery of God who walks beside us.  
From start of time to end divine, Christ’s always there to guide us.  
Born, born in every soul—his mercy making our wounds whole.  
Christ comes to earth again, the holy fire of Advent.**

Words: Elana Keppel Levy 2022

Music: English melody, 16th century; harm. attrib. John Stainer 1871

GREENSLEEVES

8 7 8 7 with refrain

OPENING PRAYER: (unison)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray . . .

**O Holy God,  
We need this story—this Christmas story.  
We need this story of ordinary people  
who were brave.**

**We need this story of love that changed the world.  
We need this story of angel choruses  
that give reason to hope,  
and starlight that reminds us to look up.**

**In a battered and bruised world,  
we gather around your Word  
like people gather around a fire to warm themselves.**

**So here we are,  
gathered together to warm ourselves by your light,  
because we need this story.  
We need the truth that lies deep in these holy words.  
So today we pray:  
scoop out space in us to truly listen.  
Quiet our minds. Open our hearts. Kindle the fire.  
Amen.**

**\*OFFERTORY HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #64VU**

**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.**

**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.**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.**

**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.**

*Words: Phillips Brooks 1868  
Music: Lewis Henry Redner 1868*

*ST LOUIS  
8 6 8 6 7 6 8 6*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER: (unison)**

**God of Christmas,**

**May these gifts open us**

**to the blessings you give this Season:**

**the gift of childlike wonder;**

**the gift of radiant hope;**

**the gift of peace which passes all understanding;**

**the gift of joy which knows no bounds.**

**With these gifts, we bring ourselves, O God,**

**in response to the greatest gift of all:**

**the child of Bethlehem. Amen.**

## WE HEAR AGAIN THE STORY

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

*The people who walked in darkness.*

**Read by: Paula Reynolds**

Response: The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** *Gesu Bambino*

**\*RESPONSIVE READING:** *Psalm 96 (pg. 816VU)*

*Sing a new song unto God!*

**Read by: The Rev. Oliver Dingwell**

**EPISTLE READING:** *Titus 2:11-14*

*The grace of God appears.*

**Read by: Tim Reynolds**

Response: The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*CAROL:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #48VU

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

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

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

Words: Charles Wesley 1739, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840; adapt. William Hayman Cumming 1856

MENDELSSOHN

7777D with refrain

**GOSPEL READING:** *Luke 2:1-20*

*The Birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.*

**Read by: The Rev. Oliver Dingwell**

Response: The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SOLO: *Silent Night, Holy Night (O Holy Night)*

WE RESPOND TO THE 'GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY'

\*THE CREED:

We believe

that for generations people have gathered together,  
on this holy night,

because there is something about this story  
that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

We believe in building up this hope,

this good news, and passing it on—  
to our children, our neighbours,  
to the world around us.

I believe my voice can make a difference,

just like I believe this story can make a difference,  
so I will not stay quiet.

I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.

I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.

I will live this story—because love has come again.

I believe that words have power.

I will not stay quiet. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

Holy God,

We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

**We are not familiar with angel choruses.**

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

**and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.**

We don't fully understand this story,

so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it.

Instead of running out into the streets to shout  
that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

**we whisper this good news.**

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

**we simply leave them unlocked,**

**hoping folks will figure it out.**

Instead of telling the next generation  
why this night matters so much,

**we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.**

Forgive us for our silence.

**Forgive us for our hesitation.**

Forgive us for the moments  
when we fail to share your good news.

**Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that  
we cannot help but share it  
from generation to generation. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:**

We hear again the message of the angel,  
“Do not be afraid, I am bringing you Good News of great joy,  
for unto you is born this day, in the city of David,  
a Saviour who is Christ the Lord!”

Through that birth,

God’s unending and unconditional love is given to us.

The joy of Christmas is that God loves us,

God will always love us, just as we are.

We are a forgiven and loved people.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

### **THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

May the Peace of the newborn Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the Peace of Christ.

### **WE FEAST AT THE TABLE OF THE INFANT CHRIST**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN:      *See Amid the Winter’s Snow*      #76VU**

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.  
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies God who built the starry skies,  
who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?  
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**'As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Saviour's birth.'  
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!  
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

*Words: Edward Caswall 1851  
Music: John Goss 1871*

*SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW  
7 7 7 with refrain*

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

### **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

*(to the tune of 'A Candle is Burning')*

♪ The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to God!**

Now let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**How good it is to give thanks and praise!**

It is indeed good to give you thanks and praise, O God, Author of our lives. We admit that there is something so marvelous and wonderful about this night: the glow of candlelight, and the familiar hymns, the kids that are wound tight with contagious, joyful energy, the feeling that something we've been waiting for just might be within reach.

Joy and hope are in the air—so thick we could almost bottle it up.

But we don't want to bottle up this feeling; we want to share it. We want to share the joy of this night with the children of this city, with single parents, with lonely young adults, with our unhoused neighbours, with those who are grieving, with people who couldn't quite make it home for Christmas.

We want to share this hope with people who had imagined that this year would be different, that this year they would have what they were looking for. We want to share this night with families who couldn't afford to put much under the tree, as well as those who are new to this country—fleeing a life that was unsafe or unwelcoming.

We don't want to bottle up the magic of this night; we want to share it. We want to pour your good news all over this community. We want to sing like Mary sang, until all who are looking for you have found their



way home. So, we join her and all the angels of heaven to share this song of praise:

*(to the tune of 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing')*

**♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might adored,  
heaven and earth are shining bright with the glory of your light.  
Loud hosannas now we sing! In the highest may they ring!  
Blessed is the Coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son,  
Glory in the highest! Holy God your name be blessed!**

On this Christmas night, we remember Christ's birth, but also his death. We remember how he shared your good news with all. How on the night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to those who sat with him, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "Take, drink. This is my blood, poured out for you, for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

As we share the meal that Christ shared this night, we ask that you would help us live like the shepherds—who weren't afraid to go and tell the good news. Help us take the words of the angels to heart—to not be afraid. Help us to be as trusting as Joseph—who chose to believe the impossible. But more than anything give us the courage and conviction to tell this story.

Therefore, let us boldly proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*(to the tune of 'We Three Kings')*

**♪ Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restores our life.  
Christ will come again in glory, raising us all to life.  
O, God of power, God of might, God of love, our heart's delight:  
feed us, guide us, walk beside us, bless us with your gentle light.**

On this holy night, in a hurting world so desperate for hope, we have something to say.

Joy and hope are in the air—so thick that we could almost bottle it up. But we don't want to bottle up this feeling; we want to share it.

So pour out your Holy Spirit, O Infant God, upon us as we share at your table, and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Feed us with what only you can provide. Renew us, and send us forth to share the good news of your birth with everyone we meet. Through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

*(to the tune of 'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly')*

♪ **God our Mother, Christ our Brother, Spirit in these gifts you vow:  
by our giving, in our living, we become your Body now.  
Bread is broken, light revealing; Word is spoken, for our healing.  
Make us all your Body now. Amen. Amen.**

We gather these and all of our prayers, thankful that you have given us  
your Son in infant form, and now we turn to you, singing together,

*(to the tune of 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)*

♪ **Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, Most holy be your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done  
on earth, in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need, for-giv-en may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.  
Yours is the kingdom; unto you in grateful love we bow;  
And yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view  
your mighty presence now.  
The glory yours; your praise be sung throughout the world again  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen!**

Christ is born this night, the one who is the light of the world!  
**God is here among us. That Light is in the midst of us.  
May this feast we share together bring us to light and life.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

**God of starlight,  
we came to this table hungry—  
hungry for a glimpse of you,  
hungry to hear the sound of angel choruses,  
hungry for a meal in which all might be fed.  
We thank you that you have met us here at this table.  
Help us to go forth from this place to share the joy and hope  
we have experienced in the air, in this place, at this table.  
Help us to share the joy of Christmas, always. Amen.**

#### **WE GO FORTH TO SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS**

#### **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: (unison)**

**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.

\*CAROL:

### *Silent Night*

#67VU

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.  
Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr 1818; English trans. John Freeman Young 1863  
Music: Franz Xavier Gruber 1818

STILLE NACHT  
Irregular

## \*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, DEC 24: CSUC – Rev. Oliver Dingwell, NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
9:00pm, Candles, Carols, Communion  
DEC 25: CSUC joining Cowan Heights  
JAN 01: CSUC joining Cowan Heights  
JAN 08: CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey  
JAN 08: MAP Information Session immediately after worship service  
JAN 15: CSUC – Bert Riggs  
JAN 22: CSUC – David Peters  
JAN 29: CSUC – Bert Riggs

**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).

**2023 CHURCH CALENDARS** are going fast - only 2 left! They can 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.

**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).

## **MEMORIALS**

*With gratitude for Loved Ones  
whose Christmas memories are among life's richest treasures,  
From Cheryl, Byron, Ellice and Allanah*

## **CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

*In Loving Memory of Family and Loved Ones,  
From June Knight*

*In Memory of Lewis & Leah Bursey and brother, Gordon,  
From Doug & Joan Bursey*

