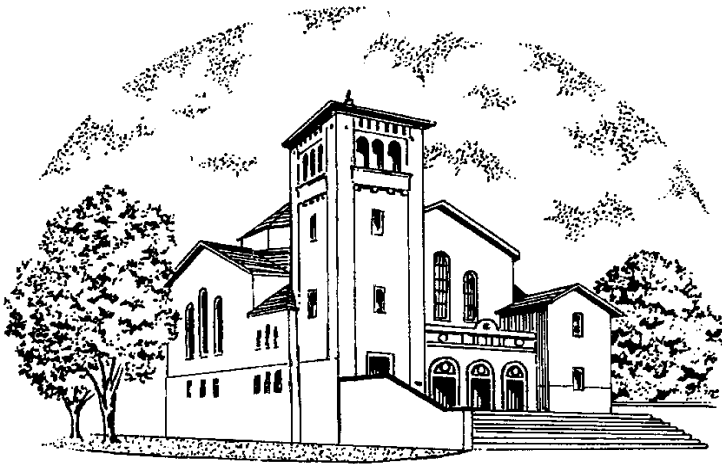


Cochrane Street United Church

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



April 12th, 2022 Holy Week

Minister: Rev. Miriam Bowlby, B.A. (Hons) M.Div, MBA-SEE

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Evan Smith

Technical Operations: John Williams, Jackabon Media

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

info@cochranestreetuc.com

www.cochranestreetuc.com

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

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:

INTROIT VU 134: Shadows Gather, Deep and Cold

1. Shadows gather, deep and cold;
lamplight flickers, fades and fails.
Lord, you know what daybreak holds:
thorns and beatings, cross and nails.
You will be denied, betrayed
when the rooster wakes the sun.
Yet you kneel alone and pray,
'Not my will, but thine be done.'

2. In the watches of the night,
in the hour when darkness reigns,
in the grief that has no light,
in the time of fear and pain,
then we hold fast to your way,
to the victory you have won.
Jesus, teach us how to pray,
'Not my will, but thine be done.'

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see your congregational email for detailed announcements.

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 #148: Jesus Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Your love flows like a stream
into the ocean of your Grace.

**Your love encircles this world,
displays your faithfulness.**

Your love is patient and kind,
brings wholeness and true peace.

**Your love is all we desire
to heal our brokenness.**

As all things pass and fade away
love remains eternally.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Holy God,

We come to worship

in the gathering shadows of Jesus suffering and death.

**We come with his friends,
the men and women who followed him**

**in every place and generation,
to live once again this story of service and betrayal,
of weakness and courage.**

We come to witness your love in action.

Be with us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN VU 143: My Song is Love Unknown (vs. 1–4)

1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
O who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ
would know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of unfathomable mercy,
if we were there,
we'd like to think that we would have defended you.
We'd like to think that we would have stopped the guards
and silenced the mockery,
and defended your name.
However, if we're honest with ourselves,
we probably would have been at the edge of the crowd
—silent and afraid.
How often are we silent and afraid?
How often do we wait for the stones to cry out for us?
Forgive us. Please forgive us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Even from his place on the cross, even while being met with cruelty
and violence, Jesus overflows with truth and grace.
He sees those around him.
He speaks connection and belonging into existence.
He offers forgiveness.
Friends, if this is true from the cross, it is certainly true here.
We are surrounded by grace.
We are held in love.
We are forgiven—over and over again.
That truth never changes. Thanks be to God.

LEARNING TOGETHER

OFFERTORY HYMN VU #120: O Jesus I Have Promised vs. 1

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

God who asked for a drink,
God who was killed by the state,
God who offered love and grace even from the cross
— we are at a loss for words.

The air is heavy.

Our hearts are heavy.

The suffering of this world feels particularly close,
spilling out all over us.

And yet, even in this space,
we know you are moving.

Even in this space,
we know that this is not the end.

Give us the heart to hear this story
and the courage to let it change us.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 31

The Word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God.**

*RESPONSIVE PSALM 71 page 789

REFRAIN: A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing

In you, O God, I seek refuge; may I never be disappointed.

**In your righteousness, save and rescue me;
incline your ear and deliver me.**

Be a sheltering rock for me,
a fortress where I may find safety;

for you are my rock and my stronghold.

Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

**For you are my hope, my trust from my youth;
from the time of my birth I have leaned on you. R**

I have become an example for many,
but you are my strength and my refuge.

**Your praise will fill my mouth;
I will sing of your glory all the day long.**

Do not cast me off in old age
or forsake me when my strength is spent;
**for my enemies talk against me;
those who lie in wait for me conspire.**

They are sure that you have forsaken me,
**that they may pursue and lay hold of me
as if there were none to deliver. R.**

O God, be not far from me;
my God, hasten to help me!
**Let my accusers be put to shame and confusion;
let those who seek my ruin
be covered in scorn and disgrace.**

As for me, I will always hope;
I will praise your name again and again. R

SCRIPTURE READING **John 12:20 - 36**
The Word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO:

SERMON: The Rev. Rebecca Pike

HYMN VU #614: In Suffering Love vs 2, 3, 4, & 5

- 2 There is a rock, a place secure
within the storm's cold blast;
concealed within the suffering night
God's covenant stands fast.
- 3 In love's deep womb our fears are held;
there God's rich tears are sown
and bring to birth, in hope newborn,
the strength to journey on.
- 4 Now to our hearts your joy commit,
into our hands your pain;
so send us out to touch the world
with blessings in your name.
- 5 In suffering love our God comes now,
hope's vision born in gloom;
with tears and laughter shared and blessed
the desert yet will bloom.

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Sung Response: MV #69 Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.

Sung Lord's Prayer VU 959

**Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil:**

**for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever and ever.**

HYMN VU 135: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus
my eyes at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess,
the wonder of his glorious love,
and my unworthiness.
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face,
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

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 #961: Let us, O God Depart in Peace

Let us, O God, depart in peace,
Who in your name are gathered here.
Disclose the brightness of your face,
And be forever near.

POSTLUDE

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

Offering at Holy Week Services

All the offering at the Holy Week Services will be forward to the Mission and Service Fund in support of Ukraine.

The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. The United Nations reports that a growing number of over a million people, displaced from their homes, are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many have lost friends, loved ones, and property; struggle to meet their basic needs, and face an uncertain future. United Church Mission & Service partners are responding to the rapidly unfolding crisis.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Wednesday, April 13th, 7:30 PM	Wesley United Church
Thursday, April 14th, 7:30 PM	Topsail United Church
Good Friday, April 15th, 12:00 PM	Gower Street United Church

There will be activities for children in the hall

Saturday Easter Vigil April 16th, 7:30 PM	St. James United Church
---	-------------------------