

Cochrane Street United Church

81 Cochrane Street

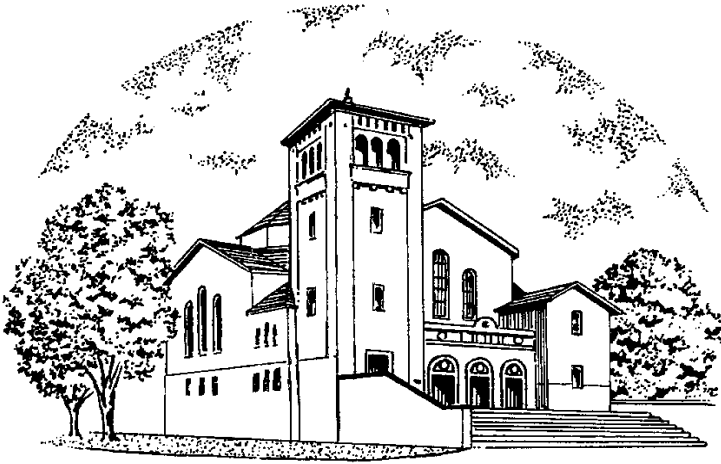


St. John's, NL



A1C

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February 26th, 2023

1st Sunday in Lent

Guest Presider: Rev. Karen Bursey

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

Technical Operations: John Williams, Jackabon Media

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GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

**bold is in unison

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:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see your congregational email for detailed announcements.

INTROIT VU #356: Seek Ye First (vs. 1,3)

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
 and God's righteousness,
 and all these things shall be added unto you.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.
- 3 We do not live by bread alone,
 but by every word
 that proceeds from the mouth of God.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

*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 #708: My Lord What a Morning (vs. 3)**

REFRAIN: My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning
when the stars begin to fall

You'll Hear the Christian Shout
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Lent is a time to prepare and to renew our life.

We mark this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy proclaimed in the gospel.

We are invited, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God of the Wilderness, God of the Journey, soften our hearts and open our ears that we might heed Wisdom's call. Stir us to vision and action, that we may extend your love wherever there is need for hope or healing. Amen

***HYMN: Forty Days and Forty Nights # 114 VU**

LENTEN SYMBOLS Lenten Symbols - Burdens

We come to this service with concerns, hurts, and burdens that weigh heavily upon us.

We offer thanks that worship is a time when we may cast aside our loads and find rest.

Jesus offers hope and promise by reminding us that he is "gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest" (Mt. 11:29)

But we know that we cannot do this alone.

The apostle Paul challenges us to "Help carry one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2)

As followers of Jesus we accept that challenge and with peace and love we reach out to our sisters and brothers.

(A candle is extinguished and the burden placed on the cross)

Prayer

God of the wilderness, be with us as we wander through the desert of our lives. Keep us from running back to the safety of old assumptions, and walk with us as we learn to live the life abundant. Amen.

***HYMN: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (vs. 1) # 121 VU**

1 Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn,
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of exodus and wilderness, God of refuge and help, hear us now as we make our confession to you. In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us. You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied; You trust us to care for creation, yet we often abuse that trust and spoil what we have been given. You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue on the path of self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Forgive us, we pray.

(moment of silence)

We ask for your direction, your patience, your love; in the name of Jesus Christ, who, in spite of his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Hear the Good News! In the desert God sustains us, sending angels to minister to us. God will not let us dash our foot against a stone, but will bear us up.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

There are many ways you can offer your financial gifts. As you enter the sanctuary you may lay your offering in the plate. You can send your offering by mail or drop them off in the mailbox. You can donate via eTransfer: csuctreasurer@gmail.com. You can sign up for PAR (Pre-Authourized Remittance) or use the donate button on our website.

***OFFERTORY HYMN VU #538: For the Gift of Creation**

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, our risking, that your covenant may be written on our hearts and we may be a blessed and transformed covenant people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

O God, we seek you in the temples of power, but you are found on the margins.

Broaden our vision, widen our understanding that we may hear your liberating Word with open hearts. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING **Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

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

***RESPONSIVE PSALM 32: VU #759**

EPISTLE READING: **Romans 5:12-19**

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

GOSPEL READING: **Matthew 4:1-11**

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ – **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN:** **Jesus Tempted in the Desert** **# 115 VU**

SERMON:

ANTHEM: *Goin Home, by Dvorak*

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN:** **O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts** **# 472 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 #425: God Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (vs. 1)

1 God, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us,
travelling through the wilderness.

*POSTLUDE

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| FEB 26: | CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey | APR 02: | Palm Sunday |
| FRI, MAR 03: | World Day of Prayer Service | APR 02: | CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey |
| | CSUC to join First United | APR 07: | CSUC – Good Friday Service |
| | <i>PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE</i> | APR 09: | Easter Sunday & Communion |
| MAR 05: | CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey | APR 09: | CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey |
| MAR 12: | CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey | APR 23: | CSUC – Rev. Oliver Dingwell |
| MAR 19: | CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey | APR 23: | Cowan Heights to join CSUC |
| MAR 26: | CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey | APR 23: | COMMUNION & ACM |

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.

LOST AND FOUND: Several gloves, hats, and glasses have been found in the sanctuary. If you think an item may be yours, please contact the church office at 722-3023 or drop by Sunday morning.

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. If Rev. Oliver is not available, please contact Paula Reynolds pt2reynolds@gmail.com.

This Sunday, worship service will be held in the community hall. As most of you may be aware, the furnace broke down last Sunday, so the sanctuary is cold at the moment. Technicians have been in to fix the furnace but Service NL is required to inspect the furnace before repairs are completed. Once both are done, the heat then has to be slowly increased to protect the organ. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

BRIDGES TO HOPE ITEM OF THE MONTH: For each month of 2023, Bridges To Hope will be suggesting a much needed food item for members of our partner congregations to consider for donation. These items are staples and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled. **For the month of February, we are suggesting canned beans.** Of course all donations of any kind are very much appreciated. Thank you for your support!

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA: On Monday, February 6, a massive magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit southern Turkey and neighbouring Syria. We hold in our thoughts and prayers all those affected. The United Church of Canada has launched a [fundraising appeal](#) to support the people in recovering from their enormous loss. As a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, The United Church has joined the Humanitarian Coalition in asking Canadians to [give to help those impacted by the crisis](#). You can also help by [writing to your Member of Parliament](#) to ask the Canadian government to support lifting sanctions against Syria to facilitate full humanitarian access.

Online: via our [secure donation page\(opens in a new tab\)](#).

Phone: 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

Send a cheque or money order to:

The United Church of Canada
Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Türkiye" on the face of your cheque.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: The Mount Pearl churches are holding their World Day of Prayer service on Friday, **March 3, at 7:00pm at First United Church on Park Avenue.** The service was written by women of Taiwan. As the hosts, the UCW is extending an invitation to the Cochrane Street congregation.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING is scheduled for **April 23, 2023**, after the Worship Service. Deadline for all reports of church groups and committees to be included in the annual report is February 24, 2023. Please submit your reports including financial reports to Harold Grandy preferably in an electronic format via email hgrandy@nf.sympatico.ca.

COFFEE TIME HOSTS: We are looking for people to volunteer as hosts for Coffee Time after church. Just tea and coffee is fine – no need to provide juice or snacks. We have a volunteer for February. If you are willing to help host, please contact the office (722-3023). Don't know what to do? No problem. We can help you out by pairing you with someone who has done it before or just giving you an orientation. Your help is very much appreciated! If you are unable to participate, monetary donations are welcomed.

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.

Regional Council Annual Meeting: The closing motion of the 4th Annual Meeting of the region on May 15, 2022, named the 5th Annual Meeting of the Regional Council to be held virtually, using zoom video conferencing on May 12-14, 2023. For more information, please visit: <https://ucceast.ca/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-16/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-annual-meeting-2023>

Lenten Learning Lunches: Join us on Thursday's during March for our online (zoom) **Lenten Learning Lunches** (March 2,9,16, and 23) from 12:30-1:30pm in Newfoundland and 12-1pm in most parts of Labrador. Our speakers will be members of FDEE Staff speaking on their areas of work as Lenten Practice. More details will follow as we get closer to Lent.

ReVITALize 2023: A special learning event for lay people and people serving in ministry, will be held on June 7-9, 2023, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. All are invited and welcome! For more information, visit: <https://www.revitalizeconference.ca/>

BRIDGES TO HOPE BENEFIT CONCERT: A Songwriters Circle Benefit Show in support of Bridges to Hope will take place on Thursday, March 16th, at 7 pm at Gower Street United Church. The show will feature Alan Doyle, Rachel Cousins, Kelly McMichael and Nick Earle. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased through the Bridges to Hope web site at www.bridgestohope.ca, or by calling 709-722-9225.