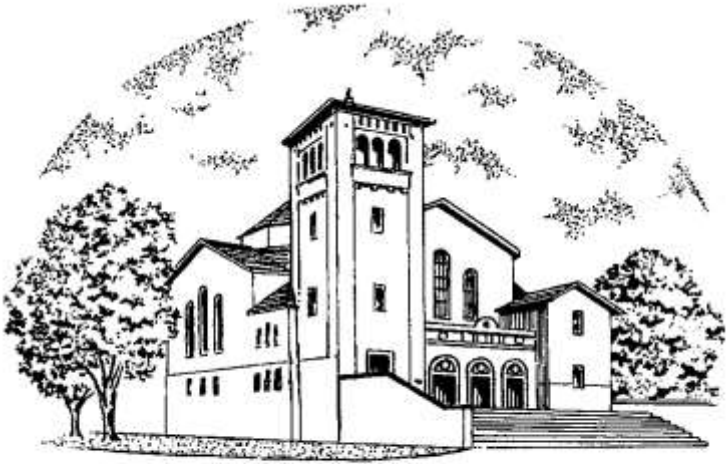


# Cochrane Street United Church

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



## April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Presider: Rev. James Ravenscroft

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

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## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*please stand as you are able

\*\***bold** indicates 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 the congregational email for detailed announcements.*

\* **INTROIT:** "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" (**VU #395, vs 1**)

**REFRAIN:** **Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.**

**You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R**

\***LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE AND PASSING 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:** "This is the Day" (**MV #122**)

**This is the day that God has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad! Repeat  
Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!  
We will rejoice and be glad! Repeat**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

A week has passed but the good news hasn't changed:

**Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

The good news hasn't changed but it changes us:

**We are empowered to walk in the light of Christ's love.**

So let us worship the One who triumphed over death,  
**who showed us the power of compassion, mercy and peace.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**God of surprises, we are ready for the unexpected,  
ready for the Risen Christ to suddenly appear.**

**It is not really unexpected though. Christ is here with us,  
just as he was with his disciples all those years ago.**

**Open the eyes of our hearts to his presence,  
exchanging our fears for the courage to follow his way,  
extending his compassion, mercy and peace to all.**

**In his name, we pray. Amen.**

\* **HYMN:** "This Is the Day that God Has Made" (*VU #175*)

## \* **EASTER LITANY OF PRAISE**

Living God, we give you praise. In Christ, we have been set free!

**Christ is risen, hallelujah!**

He meets us at the tombs of our lives and turns our tears into joy!

**Christ is risen, hallelujah!**

He comes through our locked doors, changing fear into courage!

**Christ is risen, hallelujah!**

He speaks words of mercy and peace, calling us to do the same!

**Christ is risen, hallelujah!**

He calls us to living waters to die with him and rise into new life!

**Christ is risen, hallelujah!**

He feeds us with the bread of heaven that we can share his heart!

**Christ is risen, hallelujah!**

Living God, we praise you. Christ rises to walk with us in our lives!

**Christ is risen, hallelujah! Amen!**

## **CELEBRATING EASTER JOY**

*We take time to share jokes, riddles and other expressions of joy.*

## 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](mailto:csuctreasurer@gmail.com). You can sign up for PAR (Pre-Authourized Remittance) or use the donate button on our website.*

**\* OFFERTORY HYMN: “Hallelujah, Hallelujah” (VU #179, vs 4)**  
**Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;**  
**hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.**  
**Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;**  
**Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;**  
**hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.**

## PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

**We give thanks, Living God, for the vision of the early church, modelling Christ’s love by sharing with whoever was in need. Their trust in your provision invites us to do the same. Accept then our gifts, signs of our desire to live in your Way, and accept our hearts, open to your inspiration and love. Amen.**

## GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

**READING:** Acts 4:22-35 (READER: Cheryl Briggs)

**\* HYMN:** Sung Psalm 133 (VU #856)

**READINGS:** John 20:19-31 (READER: Cheryl Briggs)

**POEM:** “Not at our beck and call”  
in Walter Brueggemann’s *Awed by Heaven, Rooted in Earth*

**ANTHEM:** “All in the April Evening”, by *Hugh Robertson*

## REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

**\* HYMN:** “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” (VU #468)

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Christ is risen!           **Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!**  
Open your hearts.       **We open them to God.**  
Let us give thanks.      **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise you. You are beyond our understanding, but we know one thing – you are love. Through your love, you made everything – the stars and planets, the sun and moon, trees, flowers, birds, animals, and us, your children. **Hallelujah!**

With that same love you taught us how to live, calling on holy people to remind us of what is good, and sent Jesus to teach us your way of love. He modelled this in everything he did, healing the sick, caring for those who were poor, offering forgiveness and teaching us to forgive each other. He loved everyone and showed us how to be compassionate and kind to all. **Hallelujah!**

With thanks for all that he did in witness to your healing love, we echo the angels and saints as they sing to your glory:

**Holy God of Power of Might! Hallelujah! Heav'n and earth shine with your light! Hallelujah! Loud Hosannas now we sing! Hallelujah! Blessings to our Risen King! Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

Blessings to you, Saving God, for this day each year when we celebrate the power of your love! We honour Jesus who was faithful to you until the very end. After he died on the cross, his friends placed his body in a tomb, but three days later they found it empty, an angel telling them that Jesus was no longer there but had risen and would continue to be with them.

Even now we experience his living presence, especially as we recall how on the night before he died he shared supper with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.” After supper, he took a cup of wine. Again he thanked you, and gave it to his friends, saying, “Take, drink. This is a sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me.”

We remember, Sustaining God, grateful that on this day we experience the in-breaking of your kin-dom, your new life revealed in resurrection. Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Dying, Christ destroyed our death! Hallelujah! Rising, Christ restores our life! Hallelujah! We believe and we proclaim, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ will come again! Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

We thank you Gracious God, for this special way that we remember Jesus as we share a meal together in your love. **Hallelujah!**

In his name we pray that your Spirit take this bread and wine and let them echo with the whisper of resurrection; take this table that it be the place where grave clothes are folded; and take this community, infusing it with fresh spirit, living hope, risen life. **Hallelujah!**

Enlivened in your grace, may we go into the world as witnesses of the resurrection of Christ, bearing to all the gift of your redeeming love. Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**“Amen, Amen.” Hear our prayer, Hallelujah! As the bread and cup we share! Hallelujah! At this table, Christ we meet, Hallelujah! Present here with wounded feet, Hallelujah!**

*(Words: Oliver Dingwell, 2022; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708)*

**\* SUNG PRAYER OF JESUS (VU #960)**

### **SHARING IN COMMUNION**

We share the bread of life, Christ offered in love for the world.  
We share the fruit of the vine, Christ given in a spirit of joy.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Spirit of life, in this feast we are fed by your love, nourished in your grace, and enlivened to live in your joy. Send us into your world to feed as we’ve been fed, forgive as we’ve been forgiven, and love others as we’ve been loved by you. Amen.**

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

**\* HYMN: “Christ is Alive” (VU #158)**

### **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

Risen with Christ, **we trust in the gift of the Spirit's peace.**

Risen with Christ, **we accept the call to embody his way.**

Risen with Christ, **we are proof that God's life will never die.**

So go in joy! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

\* **SUNG BENEDICTION:** "May the God of Peace" (*MV #224*)

**May the God of peace and of all good,**

**May the god of peace and of all good be always with you. Amen!**

**May God's peace be with you. Amen!**

## POSTLUDE

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, APRIL 07	CSUC – Rev. James Ravenscroft COMMUNION
Sunday, APRIL 14	CSUC – Rev. Peggy Johnson
Sunday, APRIL 14	ACM (refreshments provided) ~ 12:45pm Congregational Meeting Re: Pilot Project (Community Hall)
Sunday, APRIL 21	CSUC – Rev. James Ravenscroft CSUC Service @ ST. JAMES UC
Sunday, APRIL 28	CSUC – Rev. Peggy Johnson
Sunday, APRIL 28	Possible Congregational Mtg Re: Pilot Project after service (Sanctuary)

**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 create a safe environment in which we can all fully participate.

**PASTORAL COVERAGE FOR CSUC:** Rev. Peggy Johnson is covering all pastoral emergencies and funerals. She can be reached at (709) 685-9223 or by email at [peggyjoanjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyjoanjohnson@hotmail.com). If Rev. Peggy is not available, please contact Paula Reynolds at [pt2reynolds@gmail.com](mailto:pt2reynolds@gmail.com).

**PILOT PROJECT WITH ST. JAMES:** Our pilot project with St. James will partially commence on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

*Tim Reynolds*  
Chair, Church Council

**Time off for Study:** Rev. James will be taking time to finish up his latest course in the two weeks after Easter. He will be leading worship on the Sundays and will be available in case of emergency.

**BATHROOM RENOVATION:** First Light received a grant from Service NL to renovate the washroom near the Minister's office to make it fully accessible – lowered sink, leveled floor, button on the door, and a nice face lift! Renovations began on Monday, March 4, 2024. In the meantime, there are washrooms available on the second floor, near the community hall / event space.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!** Bette Anderson's family is having an 85th birthday party for her on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>! It's a drop in at a very special place to Bette. Finger food and a glass of wine if you wish – best wishes only.

3:00-5:00pm  
O'Malley's Pub, lower level,  
Lane's Retirement Living  
351 Newfoundland Drive

**BRIDGES TO HOPE ITEM OF THE MONTH:** For each month of 2024, Bridges To Hope will be suggesting a much needed food item for members of our partner congregations to consider for donation. **APRIL'S** suggest item is canned fruit. Of course other non-perishable items are always welcome.

## **MEMORIALS**

*In Loving Memory of our Dear Friend, Gerry Penney,  
From the McMaster Family*

*In Memory of Gerry Penney, From Tim & Paula Reynolds*

*In Loving Memory of a Dear & Special Friend,  
Margaret Elaine (Lewis) Dakins, From Ian Barrett*

*Flowers In Loving Memory of Alexander, Violet, Ted Reid & Family,  
From Barry, June & Family*