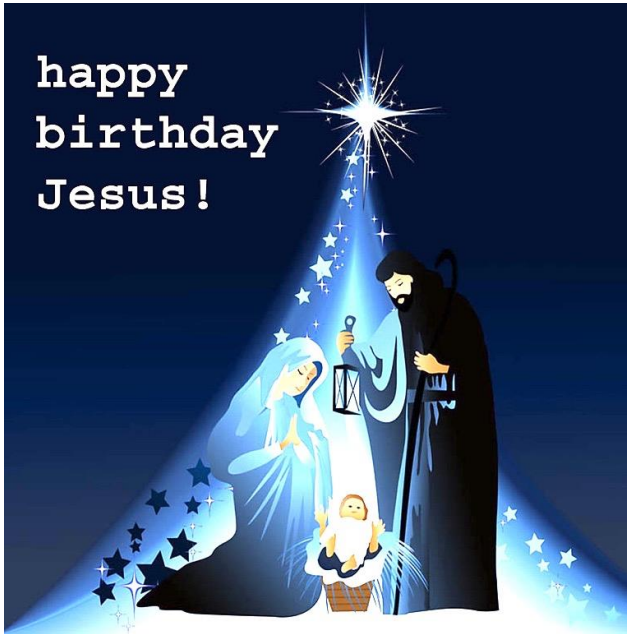


Cochrane Street United Church

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



Christmas Eve 7:00 PM

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

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Evan Smith

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GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

PRELUDE:

Carol of the Bells – Oby Matsikiti
Jolly Old St. Nicholas – Allanah Briggs
Deck the Halls – Carrie Parsons
Carol of the Bells – Will Parsons

*SUNG INTROIT #48: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

- 1 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!'
- 3 Hail, the heaven-born 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. R

*WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE: **Led by Kylie Bradbury**

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 #64 vs 1 &4: O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 1 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.

4 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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Led by Jaxon Martin

A boy has been born for us;
A child has been given to us.
And his name shall be called

**Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God,
Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Once we were no people;

Now we are God's people.

Once we walked in darkness;

Now we have seen a great light.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Led by Jaxon Martin

**O God of angel song,
shepherd surprise, stable warmth, and birthing cry;
dawn in our darkness, sing through our silence,
surprise us with wonder and with joy this holy season.
O come to us, Emmanuel. Amen.**

***HYMN: #60: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Written by Sarah Are – Sanctified Art

READERS: Tarie, Ebonee, Leslie, Oby, Amina, Lila & Nolan

Light Three Purple Candles & 1 Pink Candle

Reader A: The life of faith is often a dance—two steps forward and one step back.

Reader B: A child is born—

Reader A: Two steps forward.

Reader B: We fall in love—

Reader A: Two steps forward.

Reader B: Love falls apart—

Reader A: One step back.

Reader B: We finally get sober—

Reader A: Two steps forward.

Reader B: We are affirmed in our sense of call—

Reader A: Two steps forward.

Reader B: Tragedy and hatred strike again—

Reader A: One step back.

Reader B: In this crazy thing called life, it can often feel as if we are dancing alone—but that could not be further from the truth. Through the ups and the downs, we are held by the Creator, led by the Spirit, and surrounded by the love of Christ.

Reader A: With every step we take toward God, God has already drawn toward us. No matter how far we might roam—no matter where we might go—God's love is forever near.

Reader B: So tonight we light the Christ candle as a reminder that so many years ago, a child was born—and that child was love, and that love is here today.

Light Christ Candle

Prayer:

Tonight, the Word of God was made flesh, and dwells among us. Thanks be to God for a love like that, a love forever in pursuit of you and me. Two steps forward. No steps back. Amen.

Hymn: Hope Is a Star vs. 5

Jesus is born, alive on this night,
sharing his love 'till all darkness is bright.

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.

SOLO: "O Holy Night"

Soloist: Alana Fraize

CHILDREN'S TIME – Happy Birthday Jesus

***HYMN # 36: Angels from the Realms of Glory**

OFFERING INVITATION

SOLO: What Child Is This?

Soloist: Emily Keeping

***OFFERTORY HYMN: In the Bleak Midwinter #55 vs. 4**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart

OFFERATORY PRAYER

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Holy Spirit,

Open our hearts to the story of your love.

Open our minds to new ways of knowing you.

Open our doors to who all you would welcome. Amen

Hey Mary – A Christmas Story

Soloist: Evan Smith

Readers:

Emily Keeping, Leslie Matsikiti,
Elizabeth Carscaden, Allanah Briggs

Actors:

Kathryn Jewczyk and Emilie Connors
Wayne, Tara, Kate & Lily Bishop
The Ellis Family

***HYMN # 43: Go Tell It on the Mountain**

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Sung Response: Away in a Manger vs. #3

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

***HYMN # 67: Silent Night, Holy Night**

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

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING SERVICES

DECEMBER 30TH 11 AM

Christmas Carol Sing along and readings

JANUARY 6TH 11 AM

Guest preacher Oliver Dingwell
Potluck after church – bring something to share!

MEMORIALS

*In memory of Ken Reynolds,
a son, brother, husband, father, and uncle,
from Sonia, Paula & Tim, Geralyn, Leah, Allen & Sarah*

In memory of our loved ones, from Cheryl, Byron, Ellice, and Allanah

*In memory of Helen & Horwood Guzzwell and Ann & Bill Bourne
from nieces, Ruth and Catherine Davidge*

*In memory of Mother and Father, Irene & Walter Tucker,
from Linda Facey*

In memory of Grace Oakley from Judy & Ed Stratton

*In memory of Grandparents, Jesse & Levi Drodge,
Parents, Olive & Ralph Barnes, from Betty Barnes*

*In loving memory of my daughter, Barbara Garland,
and grandson, Chad Mercer, from Joan Garland*

*In Memory of mother and father, Leah & Lewis Bursey,
and brother, Gordon, from Doug & Joan Bursey*



Draw near to love

By Sarah Are

I know love's real,
for I have felt it in my bones
the way cold air finds my lungs
and music finds my memories—
certainly and entirely.

And I know winter is real,
for I have worn grief like a blanket—
A blanket of what once was, covering my bony elbows
and forgotten smile lines.

Somewhere in between
those certain realities,
I find myself wishing on shooting stars
and wondering if they were the same ones that Jesus slept under.
I find myself whistling,
"O come, O come, Emmanuel,"
followed shortly by, "All is calm, all is bright."

It's the melodic rotation I live in— Joy and doubt.
Light and night.
Love and grief.
You alone and you with me.

So I'll never stop waiting for Christmas.
Every day I'll rise with the sun
and pray that today it will be Christmas again,
that today will be a day when you are here,
when you are near me,
when the blanket is ripped away to reveal the light
and my smile lines have reason to bow again.

Then the stars fall,
the sun rises,
and in my heart of hearts,
I know it is.
For ever since that day
so many moons ago,
nothing has been able to separate us from your love.
And so I say—
I know love's real,
for I have felt it in my bones.

All is calm. All is bright.