

# Cochrane Street United Church

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



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## December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 The First Sunday of Advent

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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# Welcome to Cochrane Street United Church

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Whether you are here for the first time or this is your church home – welcome to our community of faith.

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## USHERING TEAM FOR DECEMBER

Keith Bowden, Harold Grandy,  
Brian Johnston, Sandy Stavlo, and Sandra Garland

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

**Office Hours:**    Tuesdays        9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
                          Thursdays      9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
                          Fridays            9:00 am – 3:30 pm

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

Phone: 709-722-3023

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

Cochrane Centre Contact information for bookings  
709-754-2532 or [info@cochranecentre.ca](mailto:info@cochranecentre.ca)

## PASTORAL EMERGENCIES AND FUNERALS

Rev. Peggy Johnson will cover all pastoral emergencies and funerals. She can be reached at (709) 685-9223

Like us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter!  
[www.facebook.com/Cochranestreetuc](http://www.facebook.com/Cochranestreetuc) and [@CochraneStreet](https://twitter.com/CochraneStreet)

# 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 #22: Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: (loud) LISTEN!

All: (loud) LISTEN!

One: (whisper) Listen!

All: (whisper) Listen! (silent pause)

God comes to us in Creation,

God speaks to us through a tree.

**A righteous branch is about to sprout.**

Be rooted in Christ. Grow, and bear fruit.

**God, translate the language of Creation,**

**where we can listen and hear your voice.**

Call to Worship written by Dan Gilroy, Gathering,

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2006-2007, page 27. Used with permission

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Readers: David Peters and Miriam Woelfel

1: What do you do when an angel interrupts your day?

2: You stop.

1: What do you do when an angel speaks?

2: You listen.

1: An angel interrupted Zechariah's work in the temple.

2: He stopped. He listened.

1: The angel had a message for Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth.

2: "You will have a baby."

1: But Zechariah said, "We're too old. That's impossible."

2: The angel said, "With God, all things are possible."

1: Remembering Zechariah and Elizabeth, we light this candle of Possibility.

**All: In the circle of God's light, all things are possible.**

*(Light one blue candle)*

Candle lighting Litany Written by Susan Lukey, High River U. C,  
High River Alberta. Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2007-2008  
page 23-24. Used with permission.

## CHORAL RESPONSE

Angel, from the realms of glory,

Zachariah heard your truth.

You who sang creation's story,

now proclaim the Baptist's birth:

come and worship, come and worship,

worship in this Advent time.

Sung response James Montgomery 1816 adapted by Karen Burse 2007

## PRAYER OF APPROACH:

In this uncertain season of Advent, we wait.

**Hoping, hoping as God is coming to us once again.**

In the vagueness of these days, we wait, we listen.

**Hoping, hoping as the Word is being whispered to us.**

In the weariness of our times, we wait, we listen, we watch.

**Hoping, hoping as the Spirit is found in our midst.**

In the sacredness of this hour, we wait, we listen, we watch, we receive.

**Hoping, Hoping as we are filled with your Grace.**

Let us worship in body, mind and spirit, the God of all our days Amen

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

God who is drawing near to us: we live in a world of violence, which we do not condemn enough:

**Come to us, with your peace.**

We are filled with the best of intentions, but are unable to follow through with action:

**Come to us, with your will.**

We are sinners, who are afraid to gaze into your mirror of grace:

**Come to us, with your mercy.**

Word of Flesh: **have mercy;**

Friend of the poor: **have mercy;**

Support of the faithful: **have mercy.**

*Silence is kept*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In this season of waiting, the Good News is this:

mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

**Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child,**

**who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory! Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

\*Baptism Hymn: Child of Blessing, Child of Promise # 444 VU

**A New Creed VU # 918**

**Congregation Response**

Today we receive Logan Connor Patrick Strickland into the family of Christ

with joy and thanksgiving

**We are members of the Body of Christ and inheritors of God's promise. Logan in the name of Christ, we welcome you. As a baptized and baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support you within the community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism, nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer and encouraging one another in God's work,**

In God's circle of love, we hold on to each other;  
I can see God's love through you.  
In God's circle of love, we learn to love each other;  
Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

Oh Logan did you know that you are very special?  
You're so special to us all  
Oh come if you will to our circle of love.  
Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

In God's circle of love, we hold on to each other;  
I can see God's love through you.  
In God's circle of love, we learn to love each other;  
Each of us is special, in God's circle of love

## **LEARNING TOGETHER**

## **OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY**

### **\*OFFERTORY HYMN VU #81: As With Gladness (vs. 3)**

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God-who-gifts-us, you do so, that we might care for those who have so little; not so we might splurge, but we might share. In the waiting of Advent, may we see the wanting, and use our resources to fill their lives with hope, grace, and joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## **GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

**O God, beginning and end, by whose command time runs its course: bless our impatience, perfect our faith, and, while we await the fulfillment of your promises, grant us hope in your Word. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 64:1–9**

Reader: Sandy Stavlo      *We are the clay; you are our potter*  
The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God

**\*RESPONSIVE PSALM 80: VU # 794 (Part One 1–7, 18–19)**

Reader: Sandy Stavlo      *Shine upon us, shepherd of Israel*

**GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 13:24–37**

*The Son of Man coming in the clouds*  
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ – Thanks be to God

**SERMON:**

**ANTHEM:** Where Shepherds Lately Knel't, *by Craig Courtney*

**GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU #921)**

**\*HYMN: Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending # 25 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**

We do not know when Christ will return,

**so we will wait, and in the waiting**

**we will share hope with everyone around us.**

We do not know what the coming days will bring,

**but we will be alert,**

**noticing all those who need the help we can provide.**

We do not know the opportunities we will be given,

**but we will keep our eyes open,**

**so we can welcome each person as if they are the Christ.**

### **\*SUNG BENEDICTION VU #6: A Candle Is Burning (vs. 1)**

1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,

a candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,

our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

## **POSTLUDE**

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

Sung response James Montgomery 1816 adapted by Karen Bursey 2007

Other prayers by Thom Shuman adapted.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday,	DECEMBER 03	11AM CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey
Sunday,	DECEMBER 10	11AM LESSONS AND CAROLS CSUC – Choir & Members of the Congregation
Sunday,	DECEMBER 10	Community Christmas Tree Lighting & Carol Singing 6:00pm, Songs & Stories of Labrador 7:00pm, Cochrane Street patio area
Sunday,	DECEMBER 17	11AM CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey
Sunday,	DECEMBER 24	11AM CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey
Sunday,	DECEMBER 31	No Worship Service at CSUC

**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).

**THANK YOU!** A Big Thank You to our volunteers who assisted with the recent mailout. We are very grateful for your gifts of time and effort.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** appreciates and thanks those who gave up their time and effort to decorate the sanctuary for this year's Advent season. A good time was had by all. Thank you to Stephen Jewczyk, Charlotte Jewczyk, Robyn McMaster, Tim Reynolds, and Paula Reynolds. Merry Christmas to all and God Bless!

*Tim Reynolds, Chair of CSUC Council.*

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS:** Just a friendly reminder that Christmas Memorials need to be received into the office by Thursday, December 14, 2023.

**December 17th is White Gift Sunday for CSUC:** This year our White Gift offering will go to Bridges to Hope.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:** As per Canada Revenue Agency, only contributions received before December 31 will be included on 2023 official receipts.

**CHRISTMAS IN LABRADOR - Volunteer Request:** Sunday, December 10, there is a quick turnover to get ready for the event's songs and stories. First Light would really appreciate assistance with coring apples, tidying up the space, moving the piano, etc. Anyone who wishes to help out with the preparations immediately after the church service can contact the church office at (709) 722-3023 or [info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com).



**2024 CHURCH CALENDARS** are available at a cost of \$10.00. If anyone is interested, please contact the Church Office, 722-3023, ([info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com)) to place an order.

**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. For the month of **DECEMBER** we are suggesting canned meat. Other non-perishable items are also welcome!

**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. Brian Johnston and Sandy Stavlo 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 Sandy Stavlo, who is the lead for Council with this project, through the church office at 722-3023 or [info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com).

**FIRST LIGHT EVENTS:**

**Spirit Song Festival** is a celebration of Indigenous Arts and Culture that has been running annually in St. John's since 2013. Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> season, It has grown into a multi-day event which boasts world class performances, traditional and contemporary knowledge sharing events as well as artist in residence series. All are welcome!

- DEC 10** \* **Songs and Stories of Christmas in Labrador** \*
  - DEC 17** \* **Songs and Stories for a Cold Winter's Night** \*
- \* Tickets for all Songs and Stories events will be up on [firstlightarts.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca).

**EXTERNAL RENTAL EVENTS:**

- DEC 16** Jazz East Big Band Christmas Concert

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH** extends to the congregation of Cochrane Street a warm welcome and invitation to join them for any and all of their worship services during the advent season this December.

- December 3 - 11:00 am Communion; 7:00 pm Eventide Taizé
- December 10 - 11:00 am White Gift; 7:00 pm Eventide Tapestry
- December 17 - 11:00 am Senior Choir; 7:00 pm Eventide Celtic 7:00 pm Vespers
- December 24 - 11:00 am Communion; 4:30 pm Family Service; 7:00 pm Candlelight Service
- December 31 - 11:00 am Guitar Group; NO Eventide

**Cowan Heights United Church – Christmas Craft Fair:** Come on by 141 Frecker Drive on Saturday, December 2, from 10am–4pm. There will be homemade gifts and treasures from local artisans and exhibitors. Admission is \$2; free for children under 12. Soup and a roll for \$5.

**Christmas Bookstore Sale:** The annual Christmas sale will take place **December 13, 14, 15, 2023** at 320 Elizabeth Avenue. Drop by and get some great deals and sample the refreshments.

**Bookstore Inventory:** the bookstore is still seeking individuals to help with inventory. **Starting December 15** and continuing into the week of December 18, 2023. If you have an hour to spare, contact Leona at [http://llaundry@united-church.ca](mailto:llaundry@united-church.ca)

