

# Cochrane Street United Church

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



## **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023** **The Second Sunday of Advent (PEACE)** **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Guest Presiders: The Choir and Congregation  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier  
Minister of Music: Patricia Young  
Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson  
Technical Operations: John Williams

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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 # 65: Ring A Bell for Peace ( vs. 1)

1 Ring a bell for peace,  
for the babe born on this night,  
ring a bell through the country and the town;  
ring a bell for peace, come and see the wondrous light,  
ring a bell, ring it merry up and down.

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: (loud) LISTEN!

**All: (loud) LISTEN!**

One: (whisper) Listen!

**All: (whisper) Listen!**

*(silent pause)*

God comes to us from within.

**God speaks to our inner being.**

**God's fire purifies our reception.**

Tune in to God's mind in prayer.

**The silence focuses our vision.**

The Spirit filters out the white noise.

**God, create a quiet place in us, where we can listen and hear your voice.**

Call to Worship written by Dan Gilroy, Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2006-2007, page 27.  
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## **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

The McMaster Family

### Advent 2

- 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 Mary's housework.  
2: She stopped. She listened.  
1: The angel had a message for Mary.  
2: "You will have God's child."  
1: But Mary wondered, "How can I be the mother of God's child?"  
2: The angel said, "Don't be afraid. Take the risk, for God is with you."  
1: Remembering Zechariah and Elizabeth, we light this candle of Possibility.

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

*(Light one blue candle)*

- 2: Remembering Mary, we light this candle of Risk.

**In the circle of God's light, we dare to risk.**

*(Light a second 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.

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

Angel, from the realms of glory, telling Mary of God's call.  
You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah'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:**

**Comfort of the ages, you come: so you can fill our empty places with your hope;  
so you can level our pride with your call to serve the vulnerable;  
so you can smooth our toughened hearts with your tenderness.  
Herald of Good News: when we hunger for exaltation, you feed us with humility;  
when we trip over sin, you gather us up in love;  
when we become satisfied with our faith, you shake us with your Messenger.**

**Spirit of Advent: in this hectic season, give us the gift of patience; when we overflow with stress, soothe us with your serenity; when we are overwhelmed with the desire for more and more,**

**speak to us of the needs of the outsiders.**

**Holy God, surround us with your presence and fill us with your love as we learn your story and sing your praises in our worship today. Amen.**

**\*HYMN VU # 62 Once in Royal David's City (vs. 2)**

2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

First Lesson read by: Cheryl Briggs, Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost his paradise  
and that his seed will bruise his serpent's head

CAROL: No Small Wonder, by Paul Edwards

Second Lesson ready by: David Peters, Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who have walked in darkness

CAROL: Mid Winter, by Bob Chilcott

Third Lesson read by: Tim Reynolds, Isaiah 11: 1-9

The Peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

CAROL: Joseph's Carol, by John Rutter

Fourth Lesson read by: Paula Reynolds, Luke 2:1-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

CAROL: Myn Lyking, by Richard Runciman Terry

Fifth Lesson read by: Jenna Mahoney, Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger

CAROL: Nativity Carol, by John Rutter

Sixth Lesson read by: Miriam Woelfel, John 1:1-14

The mystery of the incarnation

## **OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY**

Dear friends, there is an urgency in the air today. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One. About that day and hour no one knows. And so it is left to us to give generously so that we might help make the world ready for the coming kingdom, a kingdom of light, righteousness, and justice. With expectant hearts, let us bring forth our tithes and offering.

Offering invitation and prayer written by Andrew Richardson, Trinity U. C., Summerside, P.E.I.

### **\*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**

Gracious and loving God, accept these gifts as our attempt to walk in your light. Bless them so that they may be used to address the urgent concerns of our world, to bring light where there is darkness, to build peace between neighbours, and to help us all live honourably with each other. May this offering ready us for that unexpected hour when Christ returns in glory. Amen.

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

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

**\*HYMN: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice # 35 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**

**Come and see!  
The light of God has come into our world  
to proclaim God's justice and love;  
It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.**

**Come and follow!  
Christ our companion has redeemed our world  
He draws us into a loving family  
From every tribe and family and culture.**

**Go and tell!  
The Spirit has equipped us for service  
To love our neighbours as we do ourselves  
To bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.**

**Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!  
In God's Love the nations of the earth will put their hope.**

Benediction adapted from a prayer by Christine Sine on Godspace. <http://godspace-msa.com/>

### **\*SUNG BENEDICTION VU # 6: A Candle is Burning (vs. 2)**

2      **A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

## **POSTLUDE:**

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

In Gathering A/C/E 2007-8 pg 27-28 Used with permission

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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 Burse
Sunday,	DECEMBER 24	11AM CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION CSUC – Rev. Karen Burse
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).

**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).

**Christmas In Labrador & Christmas on Cochrane:** Hear incredible Inuit performers share a collection of music from the Big Land! Featuring award winning Inuk Soprano Deantha Edmunds, with special guest performances by Annabelle Edmunds-Ramsay, Kilautiup Songuninga, Mason Dicker, Kendra Jacque, Darlene Holwell, and a special performance from our community Inuit Choir accompanied by Tom Gordon. Following the performance, at 7pm, there will be a neighbourhood tree lighting on the front steps, with a community singalong, and Christmas treats! Doors Open at 5:30pm. DONATIONS of non-perishable food items and toiletries are accepted at the door, which go directly to tenants of First Light's Indigenous-priority affordable housing units.

**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.

**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://firstlightarts.eventbrite.ca).

**EXTERNAL RENTAL EVENTS:**

**DEC 16** Jazz East Big Band Christmas Concert

\* Tickets will be up on [jazzeastchristmas.eventbrite.ca](https://jazzeastchristmas.eventbrite.ca).

**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 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