

Cochrane Street United Church

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



December 16th, 2018 Draw Near to Joy

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*This week's bulletin is dedicated
in celebration of Heather & Ian McMaster's
50th Wedding Anniversary*

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

PRELUDE:

***INTROIT VU #1: O Come, O Come Emmanuel vs. 4**

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

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 #34: Come Now O God of Peace

Come now, O God of joy, we are your people;
pour out your spirit that we be one body.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

With laughing hearts and joyous hope,
we come to you, O God.

With tired souls and withered dreams,
we come to you, O God.

In our joy and in our sorrow,
we turn to you, O God.

Renew us with your love.

Gather us into your strong embrace,
that we may know your presence
and rejoice in your promised coming.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Gracious God,
your vision of peace and wholeness

comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope.
Kindle our hearts that we might be a hopeful people.
Keep us from growing weary of waiting,
lest we miss the glory of your appearing.
Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROLD SING A LONG

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Written by Sarah Are – Sanctified Art

READERS: ASHLEY, SHAWN, MAX & BEN

Light TWO Purple Candle

Voice A: We sing, “Joy to the world!”

Voice B: Joy to the world.

Voice A: The *whole* world.

Voice B: The world God has in God’s hands.

Voice A: The world that seems to be shrinking and spinning faster every day.

Voice B: The world of seas and mountains, rivers and streams.

Voice A: The world of honeysuckle and evergreen, morning snow and firesides.

Voice A: Joy to this world— to every person and to every dream.

Voice A: Joy to the world—

Voice B: For love is real and God is here.

Voice A: Let this candle be a reminder of the joy that God’s love brings.

(Light Pink Candle of Joy)

PRAYER:

God of all Joy,

Draw near one another as we wait with joy for the one who comes to bring new life. Amen.

Hymn VU #7: Hope Is a Star vs. 3

3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born
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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

***HYMN VU #12: She Walked In The Summer (The Visit)**

OFFERING INVITATION & OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

***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

OFFERTORY 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 12:2 - 6

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT VU PAGE 898

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:7 - 18

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

ANTHEM: Breath of Heaven, *arranged by Roger Emerson*

SERMON:

***HYMN MV #134: There Was a Child in Galilee**

There was a child in Galilee who wandered wild along the sea.
A holy child, alone was she, and they called her Dreaming Mary.

And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour;
She dreamed of justice for the poor.
She dreamed that kings oppressed no more
when she dreamed, the Dreaming Mary

One holy day an angel came with voice of wind and eyes of flame.
He promised blessed would be her name when he spoke to
Dreaming Mary.

Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour.
She spoke of justice for the poor.
She spoke that kings oppressed no more
when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.

And did she dream about a son?
And did he speak, the angel one?
We only know God's will was done
in the son of Dreaming Mary.

Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour.
She taught him justice for the poor.
She taught that kings oppressed no more
when she taught, that Dreaming Mary.

Then Jesus grew in Galilee,
They wandered wild along the sea.
Now he calls to you and me to dream
With Dreaming Mary.

And we dream, rejoicing in our saviour.
We dream of justice for the poor.
We dream that kings oppress no more
as we dream with Dreaming Mary.

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD’S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (PG 921)

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

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

CHORAL BENENDICTION

POSTLUDE



Merry
Christmas

The text "Merry Christmas" is rendered in a black, elegant serif font. The word "Merry" is on the top line, and "Christmas" is on the bottom line. The text is flanked by stylized holly leaves and berries. A decorative grey scroll with dots curves beneath the text.



draw near to Justice

by: Sarah Are

It takes all of me to draw near to justice—

My whole, sinful, honest self.

There is no option for part of my heart to break, for a fraction of my mind to recognize truth, for just one of my legs to march.

It's all or nothing,

my life or our lives,

daylight or darkness.

Maybe that's why justice is so hard.

In order to be just, it takes all of who we are— Sins, scars, guilt and all.

So I pray—

Break my whole heart, God.

Break my heart and in the cracks,

in the fractured places,

plant seeds of strength

so that justice will grow in me

and I in it,

like a wildflower that can't be tamed. Bit by bit

I cling to your word.

Bit by bit,

I turn my heart into a garden

for your justice to take root.

It is not an option for part of my heart to break.