

Cochrane Street United Church

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



December 17th, 2023 The Third 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

(t) 709-722-3023 (f) 709-722-3260

info@cochranestreetuc.com

www.cochranestreetuc.com

Poinsettias in the sanctuary are from June & Barry Hatfield and Family

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 #10: Prepare the Way of the Lord**

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;

Prepare the way of the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: (loud) LISTEN!

All: (loud) LISTEN!

One: (whisper) Listen!

All: (whisper) Listen! (*silent pause*)

God comes to us as the persistent whisper.

God speaks through the noise.

In the midst of shouting, **hope.**

In the midst of conflict, **joy.**

In the midst of destruction, **salvation.**

In the midst of frantic preparation, **compassion.**

**God, silence the noise within and around
so 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: Stephen & Charlotte Jewczyk

- 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: The angels interrupted the shepherds' nighttime routine.
2: They stopped. They listened.
1: The angels had a message for the shepherds.
2: "A child of peace is born."
1: But the shepherds trembled and said, "We're afraid."
2: The angels said, "Rejoice. Be glad, for you will find the child lying in a manger.
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.)

- 1: Remembering the shepherds, we light this candle of Joy.

In the circle of God's light, we live with joy.

(Light a third pink 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

Angels, from the realms of glory, sing to shepherds in the field
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:

Loving God, be to us as a bulldozer of the spirit. Clear your road in us; clear a path through the detritus of possessions and obsessions. Thrust aside our divided aims and devious games. Topple the ramparts of pride and the doubts that deride. Make a highway on which Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our being. To the glory of your name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Approach written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**We try not to do any evil, Anointing God,
but it is so hard to let go of those little things we enjoy
– gossiping about the pregnant girl in the neighbourhood; making
light of the accomplishments of a co-worker; daydreaming about
someone else's partner.**

**Forgive us, Loving God. You have freely given us salvation,
yet we act as if we are the ones who paid for it. Help us to rejoice
always in your grace, and to give thanks in every moment for that
life we receive through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.**

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Go, and take God's Good News to others: to those held
captive by sin; to those cradling broken hearts; to those grieving lost
relationships. God forgives us all and makes us new.**

**Even as we rejoice in God's mercy, we will tell everyone we meet,
"God has done such wondrous things for us, and wants to do the
same for you!" Thanks be to God! Amen.**

LEARNING TOGETHER

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

Offering invitation and prayer written by Andrew Richardson, Trinity U. C., Summerside, P.E.I. In
Gathering A/C/E 2007-8 pg 27-28

***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 of humble servants, may these gifts – and those
already given this month through PAR – be part of the great
reversal that you intend. May they help us to show favour on the
lowly and fill the hungry with good things. Our souls magnify you,
God, our Saviour. 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 40:1–11

Reader: June Knight *Comfort, O comfort my people*
The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God

*SUNG SCRIPTUE: Luke 1:47-55 (VU # 899)

Song of Mary (My Soul Gives Glory to My God)

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader: Paula Reynolds *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing*
The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1–8

The preaching of John the baptizer
The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ – Thanks be to God

*HYMN: On Jordan's Bank # 20 VU

SERMON: Rocky Roads

ANTHEM: Scots Nativity, by Bullard

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

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

*HYMN: Hark the Glad Sound # 29 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

May the Spirit of hope lead you to prepare the way of the Lord;
may the God of comfort embrace you, as the valleys are lifted up,
and every mountain and hill made low;
may the Child of Promise leap within you,
as together we journey through this Advent time.

***SUNG BENEDICTION VU #6: A Candle Is Burning (vs. 3)**

3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

POSTLUDE

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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. If Rev. Peggy is not available, please contact Paula Reynolds at pt2reynolds@gmail.com.

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, (info@cochranestreetuc.com, 722-3023,) 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!

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 11th 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 17 * Songs and Stories for a Cold Winter's Night *

Songs and Stories for a Cold Winter's Night, with sets by Amelia Curran, Morgan Toney, and Dale Drew is this Sunday evening at 7:30pm. Tickets and more details can be found at coldwintersnight.eventbrite.ca.

EXTERNAL RENTAL EVENTS:

DEC 16 Jazz East Big Band Christmas Concert

* Tickets for all Songs and Stories events on 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 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



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

*In Memory of Horwood & Helen Guzzwell
and Bill & Ann Bourne, From Anonymous*

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

In Memory of The Drodge Family, From Betty Barnes

*In Loving Memory of Helen & Horwood Guzzwell,
and Anne & Bill Bourne,
From nieces, Ruth and Catherine Ruth Davidge*

*In Memory of Mother and Father, Irene & Walter Tucker,
From Linda Facey*

*In Loving Memory of Mom & Dad, Violet & Alex Reid,
and Brother Ted Reid, From June & Barry Hatfield and Family*

*In Memory of my brother, Ken, who died on Christmas day 2016
and my mother, Sonia, who died last year on December 23.*

They are always remembered at Christmas.

From Tim Reynolds

