

Cochrane Street United Church

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



December 23rd, 2018

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

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

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GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

PRELUDE:

***ENTRANCE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

***ROYAL SALUTE**

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

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 2 God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: R
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: R
- 4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R
- 5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R

***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 love, we are your people;
pour out your spirit that we be one body.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

**to the empty-handed and the heavy-hearted,
to the despairing and the despised.**

Enter this world,

giving love to the lowly and hope to the downcast.

Dwell among us, and teach us your ways,

saving the lost and strengthening the weak.

Be made incarnate within us,

that we might cast away fear and live boldly by faith.

With gratitude that you come to be with us,

we worship joyfully this day.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God the unexpected and undreamt:

In this holy season, instill your hope in our hearts.

Prepare us;

prepare us so we can hear again the song of the angels

and see again the beckoning star. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

READERS: HEATHER AND JAXON

Light three candles two purple and one pink

Voice A: I used to think love was a feeling. That was before I knew that love is a fire—unquenchable and bright.

Voice B: That was before I knew that love is a river—forging paths where none have gone before.

Voice A: That was before I knew that love is a song—etching its melody into my memory.

Voice A: I used to think that I had to find love for it to find me.

Voice B: But that was before I knew that love is that which breathes us into beginning.

Voice C: That was before I knew that love had already found me, never letting me go.

Voice A: Friends, today we light the candle of love as a reminder that it is from love that we are made, it is in love that we are raised, and it is for love that we are sent.

Light candle.

Voice B:

Let us Pray:

We are made from love, to be love, and to give love. Draw near to God because God, who is love, has and will always draw near to you. Amen.

Hymn: Hope is a Star vs. 4

4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart
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.

***HYMN # 44: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats

o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.

4. For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

CHILDREN'S TIME

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY:

***OFFERTORY HYMN #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**

***HYMN # 62: Once In Royal David's City**

- 1 Once in royal David's city
 stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
 in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 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.
- 3 For he is our lifelong pattern;
 daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
 tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
 through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
 is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

First Lesson read by: Charlie Pope
Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 God said, "Let there be light"

CAROL: Glow by Eric Whitacre
Guest Conductor: Abra Whitney

Second Lesson ready by: Emily Keeping
Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who have walked in darkness

CAROL: Come on Down to Bethlehem by Joel Raney

Third Lesson read by: Elizaeth Carscaden
Micah 5:2-5a From Bethlehem, shall come forth a ruler

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Joel Raney

Fourth Lesson
 read by: Her Honour The Honourable Judy Foote,
 Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador
Luke 1:26-35, 38 The birth of Jesus foretold by Gabriel

CAROL: Who Would Imagine a King
Soloist: Abra Whitney

Fifth Lesson read by: Oby Matsikiti
Luke 2:1-7 Angels announce Jesus' birth

CAROL: Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth arr. Jay Althouse

Sixth Lesson read by: Allanah Briggs
John 1:1-14 The mystery of the incarnation

CAROL: Gloria In Excelsis by Jay Althouse

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

***HYMN # 38: Angels We Have Heard On High**

1. Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? R
3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R
4. See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. R

***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**

***BENEDICTION:**

CAROL: Go Tell It On the Mountain/What a Wonderful Child
arr. Ames & McKay
Soloist: Abra Whitney

POSTLUDE:

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

The crèche which is part of our church every Advent and Christmas has a fascinating history which involves members of our congregation, the United States Air Force, a local artist, art students, and Bulgarian refugees.

The United States Air Force Base, Fort Pepperrell, was slated for closure in May, 1959. At that time, the Americans were disposing of the Base's assets. A member of the congregation, Horwood Guzzwell, while visiting the Base during this time, discovered a crèche destined for disposal. He procured the crèche and stored it for several years. It was noted to be in very poor condition, with the figures being defaced and broken.

Several years later, Mrs. Dorothy Peters, another member of our congregation, on examining the crèche, thought it should be repaired. She contacted Mr. Reginald Sheppard, a well-known artist in St John's and the art teacher at Prince of Wales Collegiate. Mr. Sheppard, along with his art students, worked for a full academic year on restoring the figures. The figures are vivid and life-like and exhibit the traditional form of crèche figures that we associate with those of our Bible stories of the 1950s.

It was thereafter used in the church for many years. By 1990, the figures had again shown signs of breakage and chipping of the paint. Linda Bowden, a member of Time Out for Women, contacted the Arts Council of Newfoundland and Labrador and was given the contact information for a new young sculptor and his wife, a painter, who had just arrived in St John's and needed work.

Luben Boykov, a trained sculptor in his native Bulgaria and his wife Elena Popova, a trained artist, also from Bulgaria, had arrived with their infant daughter in Gander in 1990 and had claimed refugee status.

Linda Bowden met with the couple who agreed that Mr. Boykov would carry out the restoration work and Ms. Popova would paint the figures. The commission was \$1,000.00 for the project. We should feel gratified that our church was able to help this young couple become established in St John's, which they still call home, and the congregation is most appreciative of the quality of the work performed by this gifted couple.

It should be noted that the crèche is missing one of the wise men and no history of when this occurred can be documented. It is possible that, because of the poor condition of the figures when first obtained, this figure was too badly damaged to be retained.

With thanks to Dr. David K. Peters for the early history of the crèche.
Cochrane Street United Church Archives 2011

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

7:00 PM Kids, Candles and Chaos

9:00 PM: Candles, Carols and Communion

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!



draw near to one another

by Sarah Are

When Adam saw Eve,
the first thing he said was, “At Last.”
And when I fell in love,
God became real faster than I could imagine.

When my brother was born,
I learned the size of my heart.
And when my mom held my hand,
I knew the love that willed that heart to start.

And without them,
how would I know love?
Without others, how would I learn grace or music, confidence or trust?

And without the sun,
how could the earth grow life?

And without you,
how could I know God with green eyes, God with brown skin,
God with wrinkles,
God within.

So I have come to believe—
we belong to one another.
Families and friends, neighbors and strangers— We belong to one
another.

And I have come to see
the space between you and me
as nothing short of holy ground.
So take off your shoes and draw near. Together is where God is found.