

# **Cochrane Street United Church**

(in Partnership with St. James United Church)

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



## **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### **PALM SUNDAY**

Presider: Rev. James Ravenscroft  
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](http://www.cochranestreetuc.com)

# GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*please stand as you are able

\*\***bold** indicates 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 the congregational email for detailed announcements.*

**INTROIT:** "Holy Holy Holy", by *Franz Schubert* (sung by choir)

## \***LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE & PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

The light of Christ is with us. **Here. Now. In this place.**

In Christ, although we are many, we are one.

**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.

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

We have come with anticipation, clutching palm branches,  
**ready to wave them in welcome to our hoped-for hero.**

We have come in prayer to raise our voices for liberation,  
**in hope that the promise of new life is at hand.**

We have come knowing that other voices will soon be jeering.  
**Is this the way that new life is meant to come?**

\***HYMN:** "All Glory Laud and Honour" (**VU #122**)

## OFFERING INVITATION

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** "For the Gift of Creation" (**VU #538**)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,**

**we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.**

**May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

## GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

We give thanks O God for your many gifts,  
the gift of our world, of each other, of community,  
and of this season of reflection that soon draws to a close.  
Guide us through this coming week,  
That as we reflect on Jesus' final days,  
our hearts may turn more fully toward you,  
and to Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**RECALLING JESUS' COMING TO JERUSALEM:** Mark 19:29-38

**Reader:** Rev James Ravenscroft

**PALM PROCESSION:** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (**VU #123**)

*After the gospel, we join in singing our hymn, during which everyone is invited to process through the church to commemorate Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem.*

### **PRAYER**

Holy One, today we celebrate,  
recalling the time that Jesus entered Jerusalem,  
riding on the back of a donkey.

We feel the excitement of the crowds,  
and are tempted to get swept up in the hope of this moment,  
avoiding what happens next.

But we can't avoid it, knowing how this welcome is withdrawn,  
joyful hosannas replaced with jeering shouts of condemnation.

Be with us in the mixed feelings of this moment,  
but look to the horizon and see the shadow of the cross,  
and look still further to the promise of an empty tomb.

We pray with the One accompanying us on our way. Amen.

**ANTHEM:** Hosanna to the Son of David, *by David Halls*

**READING:** "Hosanna" by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**Reader:** Rev James Ravenscroft

### **REFLECTION**

**HYMN:** "Palm Sunday" (to the tune *Kingsfold*)

The day of palms is come again, day of triumphant praise,  
When crowds excited ran to sing the song the psalmist raised.  
'Blessed is the one who comes,' they cry 'to set his people free.'  
Gladly we join our song with theirs who yearn for liberty.

**How soon the gladness disappears & shadow stalks the streets!  
The king who rides a donkey's foal with coats beneath its feet  
Will soon a crown of thorns endure, a throne of rough-hewn  
wood. A day of agony draws near when evil strikes at good.**

**'Hosanna!' turns to 'Crucify!', rejoicing turns to scorn.  
If this were all there was to tell, how deeply we should mourn.  
Yet death is not the final step that Christ our Saviour trod.  
Onward he marches, leading home the world he won for God.**

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## **PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK**

*We listen to portions of the story that follow Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.*

Mark 11:1-10 (Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem)

**Reader:** Rev. James Ravenscroft

Mark 11:27-33 (Jesus is challenged by the religious leaders)

**Reader:** David Peters

Mark 12:1-12 (Jesus challenges the leaders through a parable)

**Reader:** David Peters

Mark 12:38-44 (Jesus teaches as a widow gives all that she has)

**Reader:** Paula Reynolds

Mark 13:1-2, 11-13 (Jesus prepares his disciples for what is coming)

**Reader:** Paula Reynolds

Mark 14:1-11 (Jesus is anointed and Judas goes out to betray him)

**Reader:** Theresa Roberts-Morrissey

## **TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

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

#### **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

**Holy God, dreamer of dreams, we offer the partnership of  
Cochrane Street United Church and St. James 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.**

**\*HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (VU #135)**

**READING: "At the Cross" by Andy Stinson**

**Reader: Rev. James Ravenscroft**

### **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

Go now with God, on your journey through Holy Week.

**We will discover God's grace in the mixed feelings of this time.**

Go now with Jesus, as he steps ever closer to the cross.

**We will join him in his courage and his love.**

Go now with the Spirit, who invites us through death and into life.

**We will share the good news of this holy time with everyone.**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **Holy Week Services:**

- Maundy Thursday, MAR 28 - Gower United Church - **7:00pm**  
Good Friday, MAR 29 - Wesley United Church - **12:00 noon**  
Holy Saturday, MAR 30 - St. James United Church - **7:00pm**  
Easter Vigil (Plus Adult Baptism and Confirmation)  
Easter Sunday, MAR 31 - St. James United Church - **11:00am**  
(Infant Baptism & Communion)

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday, MARCH 24 | CSUC Service @ St. James UC<br>PALM SUNDAY<br>No Eventide Worship at St. James UC   |
| Friday, March 29 | St. James Office will be closed<br>to observe the Good Friday Holiday   |
| Sunday, MARCH 31 | CSUC – Rev. Peggy Johnson<br>EASTER SUNDAY / COMMUNION  |
| Sunday, APRIL 07 | CSUC – Rev. James Ravenscroft<br>EvenTide Taize @ St. James 7:00pm  |
| Sunday, APRIL 14 | CSUC – Rev. Peggy Johnson   |
| Sunday, APRIL 14 | ACM (refreshments provided) ~ 12:45pm<br>Congregational Meeting Re: Pilot Project<br>EvenTide Tapestry @ St. James 7:00pm |

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NO SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE!** A friendly reminder that members of our congregations can be 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).

**PILOT PROJECT WITH ST. JAMES:** Our pilot project with St. James will partially commence on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

*Tim Reynolds  
Chair, CSUC Council*

**PASTORAL VISIT ANYONE?** Rev. James Ravenscroft has offered to do pastoral visits to any CSUC members who would like a visit from clergy. If you're interested in this, please call the office and leave your name and we will pass your request on to Rev. James.

**LOCAL BRANCHES FOR PALM SUNDAY:** March 24 is Palm Sunday. Like last year, you are encouraged to bring a piece of a branch that is locally sourced, for example cedar or spruce or juniper, as part of our celebration. You could also bring a piece of ribbon or cloth to wave. In this we are mirroring what the people did in Jesus' day as they cut branches from the local area and took their cloaks as well to place on the road in front of Jesus.

**COFFEE HOUR:** The after worship weekly coffee time will be held in the auditorium this Sunday instead of the Fellowship Room to make room to give us all a chance to meet our friends from Cochrane and to get to know each other.

**CSUC NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (ACM):** The CSUC ACM will be held in person on Sunday, April 14, 2024, after the worship service and a quick lunch in the community space. The annual report will be made available both in hard copy and electronically two weeks before this meeting.

**BRIDGES TO HOPE ITEM OF THE MONTH:** For each month of 2024, Bridges To Hope will be suggesting a much needed food item for members of our partner congregations to consider for donation. For **MARCH**, we are suggesting **BEANS**. Of course other non-perishable items are always welcome.

**ST. JAMES RECORDED SERVICES:** To access their website, go to [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org) and click on 'Digital Worship' and then click on 'Live' to view the most up to date worship or visit their Facebook page (St. James United Church) click 'Videos' in the left side menu.

**ST. JAMES – Wild light Spiritual Oasis** will take place on Saturday, **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 3PM. Starting in the parking lot of the Elaine Dobbins Centre for Autism (70 Clinch Crescent), come for a prayerful walk as Spring arrives officially and we look toward Holy Week, taking time to ponder dark and light, death and new life.

**St. James – Reflective Thursdays at 12:30:** Each Thursday throughout Lent, (Rev.) James will lead an informal communion service in the Fellowship Room. Communion is at 12:30PM, followed by the the sharing of lunch. Bring a bag lunch if you wish and have lunch together!

**St. James – Easter Sunday Breakfast and Easter Treasure Hunt - March 31:** Once again the AOTS Men's Club will be hosting Breakfast Downstairs, Eggs, Toast, Jam, Juice, Tea and Coffee. Come for breakfast starting at 9:30 am. Enjoy your Breakfast before going upstairs for the Easter Sunday Service at 11:00 am. There will be a free will offering. In the Sanctuary there will be a Treasure hunt for Easter eggs and non-food Easter items. The young and the young at heart are free to participate.

**ST. JAMES – SPRING TEA & BAKE STALL sponsored by UCW:** Pop on down to St. James Auditorium on Saturday, **April 20**, from 2-4pm! Cost \$8. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Please contact the church office for more information (709-722-1881, ext. 200).

**PURDY'S CHOCOLATES:** Your orders have arrived! They can be picked up on Sunday or from the church office during office hours. (Tues-Fri 8:30AM to 1:30PM)

**CFUW ST. JOHN'S GREAT BIG BOOK SALE!** We have a collection of gently used fiction, non-fiction and children's books. Visit us at the former Bouclair site on the Avalon Mall parking lot, next to the Golden Phoenix restaurant and Globo Shoes. Proceeds from the Great Big Book Sale fund scholarships and community outreach projects. Register at 709-693-9346. Free books to students!

**March 21** 1:00pm – 9:00pm

**March 22** 10:00am – 9:00pm

**March 23** 10:00am – 1:00pm **Half Price Day!**

**March 23** 2:00pm – 2:30pm **FREE books to charities**

