

Cochrane Street United Church

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



September 24th, 2023 17th Sunday after Pentecost CREATION SUNDAY 3

Guest Presider: Bert Riggs
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier
Minister of Music: Patricia Young
Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson
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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 #333: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (vs. 1)

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

Acknowledging Our Kinship:

Creator God, we come together today as diverse, united peoples to give thanks to you, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

**We come to listen, to learn, to sing and pray,
to consider our place in the order of things you have
created and are creating.**

It is right and good to give thanks for the land on which we stand, for this is wisdom we learn from Indigenous peoples of this land — that we are one with the earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.

**Such wisdom, our interdependence with all life,
is something too easy to forget in our busy lives!
It is a gift and a challenge to us to remember.**

And so we take time to acknowledge the lands on which we now live.

Many of us have come from other places, arriving from distant shores, our families arriving years ago or some of us more recently. When settlers came, they were met by others who were already here, already knew these lands, already lived rich and full lives based on ancient and proud cultures.

O God, as we acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their continued claims to the land, help us to become good neighbours that we might live together in better ways.

For we are all kin in Christ, with each other and this earth, in all its resilience, fullness and beauty. Amen.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE & PASSING OF THE PEACE:

We give thanks for the light of hope — unrelenting and inexplicable.
Our hope in Christ shines on.

We give thanks for the light of peace — strong and unafraid.

The peace of Christ lights our way.

We give thanks for the light of joy — persistent and unpredictable.

The joy of Christ brightens our lives.

We give thanks for the light of love — hot and holy.

The love of Christ comforts and challenges.

Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate Jesus.

Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC VU #381: Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free;

Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, Darkness was over the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

**Centuries before Jesus walked among us,
The Spirit of God was promised to him,**

so that he would bring justice to the nations.

Jesus sent the Spirit of truth to teach us and give us peace.

At Pentecost the Spirit came, as the rush of violent wind and tongues of fire. That same Spirit is among us now. Let us worship God! *(Adapted from Genesis: 1 by Chip Hardwick)*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Creator God, who formed humanity from dust, breathe in me again. Revive me and sanctify me by the power of Your Spirit. Set my heart on fire with the good news of Your gospel. Amen.

***HYMN: All Creatures of Our God and King # 217 VU**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Forgive us, God, that we have taken your creation for granted. You have given us the run of the land, the pick of the crop and we have squandered these resources; distributed these unfairly, vandalised their beauty, violated their purity.

Forgive us, God, that we have taken your kingdom for granted. You have given us the seeds of faith, the fruits of the spirit, and we have misused these resources; displayed them rarely, bestowed them grudgingly, ignored them blithely.

Thank you, God, that you are stronger than our destructiveness and greater than our meanness, that you gave us a fresh start, a second chance. Overwhelm us with the power of your resurrected love. Compel us with the challenge you issue for change. Lead us in the conquest of our own limits and restrictions. Drive us towards a new life of peace, justice and integrity. Amen. *(Written by Janet Orchard and posted the [Methodist Relief and Development website.](#))*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Be assured that because of your trust in and love of God, your acceptance of his son, Jesus Christ, as Savior for each one of us, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen

LEARNING TOGETHER: Our Place in the Bible

***HYMN: Your Hand, O God, Has Guided # 274 VU**

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY HYMN VU #543: We Give Thee But Thine Own (vs. 1)**

We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O God, from thee.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Each of us is a fragile miracle, evidence of God's creative hands, and amazing grace. We are each unique, unrepeatable gifts to the world. We are proof of God's love. And so, we who are the gifts of creation, now give gifts to our Creator. Gifts we have brought in love. Amen

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Creator God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 16: 2–15

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

***RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 105, VU #828, Part 1

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 1: 21–30

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 20: 1–16

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ – Thanks be to God

ANTHEM: Be Still, for the presence of the Lord by David Evans,
arr. By Richard Shephard

MEDITATION: Enough to Eat for Everyone

Reflective Music

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU #960)

*HYMN: Take My Life and Let It Be # 506 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 BLESSING

*SUNG BLESSING VU #871 (refrain)
Let the whole creation cry,
Glory be to God on high. X2

POSTLUDE:

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



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to friends & family
of Ted Howell, who passed away this week.
Funeral details will follow shortly.



MEMORIALS

*In Loving Memory of Leah Budden in honour of
the anniversary of her Birthday yesterday, September 23rd.
Forever missed by Daughter Cheryl Briggs and Family.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEP 24	ORANGE T-SHIRT SUNDAY CSUC – Bert Riggs	OCT 07	Fall Harvest & Plant Sale 10:30am–1pm
OCT 01	WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY CSUC – Rev. Peggy Johnson	OCT 08	THANKSGIVING SUNDAY CSUC – Rev. Karen Burse

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.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL

when walking through the Cochrane St entrance. Basic work has started for repairing a portion of the driveway and to install a ramp at the middle doors.

PARKING ON SUNDAYS: If the Bannerman parking lot is full when you arrive, there MAY be parking available at Stewart Avenue that's behind the College of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CRNNL).

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA E-SENTIALS: On September 30, people all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions. This year, Indigenous communities across the country continue to share the truth they have always known: that many of the children who never returned home remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites. These communities are now seeking to honour the missing children. On Orange Shirt Day we also observe the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPTEMBER 30: To find out more about Orange Shirt Day and activities, visit: <https://firstlightnl.ca/resources/orange-shirt-day/>

FALL PLANT AND HARVEST SALE: Our fall plant and harvest sale is Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 10:30am–1:00pm. Drop off your indoor and outdoor plants and chutneys, relishes, jams and marmalades at 81 Cochrane Street on October 7, from

9:30–10:30am. If you need your plants picked up, please contact the church office by Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at info@cochranestreetuc.com or 722-3023.

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.

SABBATICAL SCHEDULE / Acting Executive Minister: Effective July 1, through to and including September 30, 2023, the Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish will be taking sabbatical. From September 1–30, Rev. Heather Sandford will be serving as Acting Executive Minister. She can be reached at 1-800-268-3781, Ext. 6155; hsandford@united-church.ca

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. These items are staples and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled. For the month of **SEPTEMBER** we are suggesting canned soup. Next month we suggest canned milk. Of course other nonperishable items are always welcome!

STELLA'S CIRCLE AGM: You're invited to attend our AGM - in person! Learn about our inspiring participants, our dedicated staff, the amazing volunteers & generous donors who work together as one full circle so that we continue to transform lives. Hear our Inclusion Choir perform and enjoy a treat from our [Hungry Heart Cafe & Catering](#). Wednesday, **September 27 at 4:00pm. Gower Street United Church** Lecture Hall, 99 Queens Road. **RSVP to** c.drover@StellasCircle.ca [#HopeLivesHere](#)

WELL BEING WEEK – starting today to improve tomorrow: September 17-23, 2023, is a time to learn, engage, support and take action around the many factors that impact our health and quality of life. It's a week to build momentum and empower people to continue making meaningful steps to better our well-being today, tomorrow and beyond. This is a long-term goal that relies upon governments, communities, groups, businesses, *and organizations* to incorporate a well-being approach in their policies and programs. For more information: <https://wellbeingnl.ca/>.

THE ANNUAL GOWER STREET BLOCK PARTY: The Anglican Cathedral, The Basilica, Gower Street United Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church invite everyone to the annual Gower Street Block Party on **September 24th**, from **12:30–3:00pm**. Join us on Gower Street, in front of the Anglican Cathedral, for live music, entertainment for kids and adults and of course, some food for all. This is a **FREE** community event.