

Cochrane Street United Church

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



December 2nd, 2018

Draw Near to Hope

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:

***INTROIT VU #1: O Come, O Come Emmanuel vs. 2**

***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 peace, we are Your people;

pour out Your Spirit that we be one body.

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

God of hope, who brought love into this world,

be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,

be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,

be the joy that dwells between us.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

God of hope

be with us in our Advent journey

to the stable and beyond,

be with us in our meeting

and in our travelling together,

be with us in our worship

and our praying together,

be with us in our Advent journey

to the stable and beyond,

our God of hope. Amen

***HYMN # 28: Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Readers: Blair Bradbury and Kylie Bradbury

Written by Sarah Are – Sanctified Art

Voice A: In hope, Israel dreamed of a Messiah so many years ago.

Voice B: In hope, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem praying for hospitality.

Voice A: In hope, the wise men followed a star believing that God would guide them along the way.

Voice B: Like Israel, we sing, “Come, oh come, Emmanuel.”

Voice A: Like Mary and Joseph, we pray for a world that acts like we belong to one another.

Voice B: Like the wise men, we travel to this space trusting that God draws near to us— guiding us along the way.

Voice A: This Sunday, we light the candle of hope because we could not be Advent people without it.

(Light candle)

Voice B: May this candle remind us that God’s light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Prayer:

Holy God,

May this light serve as an invitation to draw near to God—for in the light of this candle we can feel God’s warmth, we can see more clearly, and, together, we can hope for a better day. Amen.

Hymn: Hope is a Star vs. 1

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

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 # 5: All Earth Is Waiting**

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

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 whom all you would welcome. Amen

RESPONSIVE PSALM 25 page 752

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14 - 16

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 21:25 - 26

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, *arranged by J. Raney*

SERMON:

***HYMN # 20: On Jordan's Bank**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Cantor:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

God, most holy, we do give you thanks as we gather at Christ's table,

as we remember your love, holy and whole,
a love that has held us from the beginning of the beginning,
and a love that will hold us for as long as time exists.

Choir Men: O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily,
To us the paths of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Choir: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We need your Wisdom, God.
We need your guidance.
We need your invitation – your calling –
Your whispers and your shouts –
Through the voices of prophets and priests,
Grandmothers and grandfathers,
Children and infants,
All who listen and speak your love.

Choir: O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Because we didn't always listen –
Because we don't always listen –
You gave to us your Christ,
Alive in the world!

Women Choir: O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
form every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Choir: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Wholly God and wholly human,
A tiny baby, a teacher, a healer, a challenger, a saviour,
He laughed with those who laughed
And cried with those who cried –
But, most of all, he loved us with a love that never ever ends.
A love that surpasses even death.
A love that brings new life –
Not only to us... but to all creation!

Alleluia!

**All: O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

On the night before he was taken to his death on a cross,
Jesus gathered with his disciples ... he gathered with his friends.
He shared with them a meal of remembrance and freedom.
After an act of utmost humility and hospitality – washing their feet –
He blessed the bread and broke it, saying,

“Take this and eat it.

This is my body, given for you.

Each time you eat bread, remember me!”

As the meal drew to a close, he blessed a cup of wine and passed it
to them, saying,

“Take this and drink it.

This is my promise in my life's blood
that sins are forgiven.

Each time you drink, remember me!”

So we eat, we drink, and we remember!

Holy God, send your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts,

That they – and we – might truly be Christ's body –

Alive in the world!

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

All glory is yours, God most holy,

Now and forever. **Amen.**

**All: O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease, and be for us the Prince of
Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THE LORD's PRAYER (page 921)

Cantor:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of Wine

The body of Christ.

Thanks be to God for the bread of life.

The blood of Christ.

Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing.

The Prayer After Communion

With this taste of the Bread of Life,

With this taste of the Cup of Love,

Send us into the world, God –

So that we might whisper your coming,

So that we might sing your Advent,

So that we might live your birth,

Now and forever. Amen.

Communion Liturgy by: Richard Bott: liturgy.richardbott.com

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

***HYMN # 18: There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling**

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 BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



draw near to wonder

by: Sarah Are

I wonder if the earth is waiting for a Messiah like I am—
Trees bending toward love,
fireflies keeping a promise to be light,
the moon returning over and over again
with hope that the world will look differently this time.

I wonder if I'll ever really know when it happens—
Those moments when God is in my midst.
Those all the time,
everywhere,
rare kind of moments that I'm terrible at trusting but
know like a rainstorm.

I wonder, because I am human.
I wonder, because *not* wondering leaves me stuck.
And I cannot be stuck in a world
that separates children from parents,
women from their bodies,
and men from their emotions.

So I wonder.
Will the stars ever fall?
Will I see you face to face, and you see me?
Will the moon come back tonight and sigh, saying,
"Ah yes. I can see that God is here. This is what I've been waiting for."