

Welcome to Cochrane Street United Church

Whether you are here for the first time or this is your church home – welcome to our community of faith.

USHERING TEAM FOR DECEMBER

Roger Crosbie, Jim Austin, Jeff Critch, Jim Oakley

THIS WEEK AT COCHRANE STREET DECEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 19

Sunday, Dec 19: 7:00 PM Worship at Cochrane
Sunday, Dec 19: 4:00 PM Tree Lighting

OFFICE

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 1:30 pm
Thursdays 11:30 am – 4:00 pm
Fridays 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Email: info@cochranestreetuc.com

Phone: 709-722-3023

Website: www.cochranestreetuc.com

Cochrane Centre Contact information for bookings
709-754-2532 or info@cochranecentre.ca

CONTACT REV. MIRIAM

Have a question or need to make an appointment?

You can reach Rev. Miriam in the following ways:

Email: revmiriam@cochranestreetuc.com or Cell: 709-728-8410

Like us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter!

www.facebook.com/Cochranestreetuc and [@CochraneStreet](https://twitter.com/CochraneStreet)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

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:

INTROIT: Hope Waits

Hope Waits for Us at Advent

Verse 3

Amanda Udis-Kessler

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Joy waits for us at Ad-vent. Joy waits for us to sing. Joy waits for our a-maze-ment at the grace in e-very-thing. In this time of pre-par-a-tion for the work of co-cre-a-tion, for the birth-ing of a world where won-der is re-stored, Joy is born in us once more."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see your congregational email for detailed announcements.

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.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC VU 7: Hope Is a Star

3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. R
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.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We are seeking—
**deeper faith,
a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

We are seeking—
**joy that overflows,
the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

We are seeking—
**the freedom to be,
the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

We are seeking, but here in this space,
We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.
God is here. We are found. Amen.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

**Gracious God,
your vision of peace and wholeness
comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope.
Kindle our hearts that we might be a hopeful people.
Keep us from growing weary of waiting,
lest we miss the glory of your appearing.
Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.**

HYMN VU 31: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (vs. 1–3)

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

- 2 Love caused your incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.
- 3 A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Readers: Stephen, Charlotte, Karla and Anne

Reader: As John baptized new converts, he invited them to live with “changed hearts and lives.” When asked how to do that, his answers all point to making sure no one is cheated or left without the basic necessities of life, including the right to not be harassed.

Reader: A full life of joy, which the prophet Isaiah describes as an ever-flowing spring, is the birthright of all children of God.

Reader: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

Reader: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

Reader: Joy is making it home when the journey is long..

Reader: Joy is the energy of a new season.

Reader: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

Reader: Today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

Reader: Today we offer the Light of Joy. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Joy awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.
There /S room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

Light Candle

Hymn: 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.

LEARNING TOGETHER

HYMN VU 40: Before the Marvel of the Night

- 1 Before the marvel of this night
adoring, fold your wings and bow,
then tear the sky apart with light
and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
that fear and death and sorrow cease:
sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,
sing peace, sing gift of peace!
- 2 Awake the sleeping world with song,
*this is the day the Lord has made;
assemble here, celestial throng,
in royal splendour come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,
a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,
sing bliss, sing endless bliss!
- 3 The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
sing love, sing love, sing God is love,
sing love, sing God is love!

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

There are many ways you can offer your financial gifts. As you enter the sanctuary you may lay your offering in the plate. You can send your offering by mail or drop them off in the mailbox. You can donate via eTransfer: csuctreasurer@gmail.com. You can sign up for PAR (Pre-Authourized Remittance) or use the donate button on our website.

OFFERTORY HYMN VU 81: As With Gladness Men of Old 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'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Holy God,
We come to your Scripture today
hoping that it will feel a bit like an open door,
like Elizabeth welcoming Mary,
like coming home.
We want to fall into it.
We want to find sanctuary here.
We want to breathe easier just hearing these words.
And we want to find ourselves laughing
because this good news is just too good to keep inside.
So hover close to us now, we pray.
Open the door to our hearts
so that we might find sanctuary in your words.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39 – 45

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

Reader: Heather McMaster

***RESPONSIVE READING**

Luke 1:46 – 55

Reader: Heather McMaster

46 And Mary^[b] said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 **for the Mighty One has done great things for me,**
and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 **He has shown strength with his arm;**
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 **he has filled the hungry with good things,**
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,**
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

DUET: “O Holy Night”

William Austen & Claire Hartlen

SERMON:

HYMN VU #12: She Walked in the Summer

1 She walked in the summer through the heat on the hill.
She hurried as one who went with a will.
She danced in the sunlight when the day was done.
Her heart knew no evening who carried the sun.

2 Fresh as a flower at the first ray of dawn,
she came to her cousin whose morning was gone.
There leaped a little child in the ancient womb,
and there leaped a little hope in every ancient tomb.

3 Hail, little sister, who heralds the spring.
Hail, brave mother, of whom prophets sing.
Hail to the moment beneath your breast.
May all generations call you blessed.

4 When you walk in the summer through the heat on the hill,
when you're wound with the wind and one with Her will,
be brave with the burden you are blessed to bear,
for it's Christ that you carry everywhere,
everywhere, everywhere.

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung Response:

**Make of my heart a stable, a house for the Holy,
A warm and sturdy place, for joy to live and grow.**

**Make of my life a stable, a house for the Holy,
A warm and sturdy place, for joy to live and grow.**

**Make of our church a stable, a house for the Holy,
A warm and sturdy place, for joy to live and grow.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN VU 68: All Poor Ones and Humble

- 1 All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.
Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.
- 2 The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us
and with us abide till his day.
Then hatred he'll banish; then sorrow will vanish,
and death and despair flee away.
And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever
from us the great love of our King;
his peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;
his praises we ever shall sing. 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

SUNG BENEDICTION MV 220: Hope Shines as a Solitary Star

Joy shines as the solitary star.

Faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,

And illumine the pathway home.

POSTLUDE

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 12:	WHITE GIFT SUNDAY, 11am
December 12:	Christmas at Cochrane, 4pm
December 12:	Blue Christmas Service, St. James United Church, 7pm Co-led with United Churches of Eastern Avalon Region
December 16:	A Merry Little Jazz East Christmas, 8pm 81 Cochrane Street, hosted by First Light
December 19:	LESSONS & CAROLS, 11am
December 19:	Christmas at Cochrane, 4pm
December 24:	Tree Lighting & Christmas Story, 4pm
December 24:	CANDLES & CAROLS, 7pm
December 24:	Candles, Carols & COMMUNION, 9pm
December 26:	No Service
January 2:	On-line Service

DECEMBER 12 IS WHITE GIFT SUNDAY! There is a Kindness Cupboard for the tenants at Cochrane Centre. They can take what they need in that moment. As a congregation, let's help keep those shelves filled. One way to do that is to bring along a grocery store gift. You can bring non-perishable food items such as pasta, pasta sauce, tinned pasta (Ravioli, etc), and canned milk.



2022 CHURCH CALENDARS are ready for pick up. If anyone else is interested, there are two left. Cost is \$6.00. Please contact the Church Office to place an order (info@cochranestreetuc.com or 722-3023).

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: Just a friendly reminder that Christmas Memorials need to be received into the office by Wednesday, December 15.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Registration is now open for all our services in December including Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve. We are asking everyone to register for church on Christmas Eve. If you don't have access to a computer, please call the office at 722-3023 to register.

Volunteers Needed: We need extra volunteers to help scan vaccine passports for December 19 and Christmas Eve. All these services have higher than normal attendance and we will need extra people to scan vaccine passports. Without extra volunteers the services will start late. Please contact the office at 722-3023 or Rev. Miriam if you are able to volunteer (revmiriam@cochranestreetuc.com) or 728-8410.

Christmas on Cochrane Volunteers: We are looking for 5–6 volunteers each week for Christmas on Cochrane (December 12 & 19). Volunteers will be helping collect food for Bridges to Hope, monitoring the barricades, helping set up the sound system and set up for the event. Please arrive 3:30pm. We should be done and cleaned up by 5:00pm.

CHRISTMAS ON COCHRANE: Everyone is welcome to join us for our newest Christmas tradition—a neighbourhood tree lighting. Each Week we will have Christmas Carols, special guests and a joyful celebration of community as each week we light up trees for hope, peace, joy and love! We will also be collecting food for Bridges to Hope. Here is a list of the items most in need: 1 litre Juice, canned milk, cereal, canned soup, canned beans, Mac-n-Cheese (ie kraft diner), canned pasta (Ravioli, etc) canned fruit, pasta foods/sauce, crackers, packaged meals (Sidekicks, Mr. Noodles etc), hygiene items.

THE UNITED CHURCH BOOKSTORE is seeking volunteers to help with inventory this year. The days we have selected to do inventory is December 16-21, 2021. If you have any time to give to help out with inventory please let me know. As we always say more hands make light work. Appreciate any time you can give.

"BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE will be held at St. James United Church on Sunday, December 12 at 7:00 pm, Co-led with United Churches of the Eastern Avalon Region.

A MERRY LITTLE JAZZ EAST CHRISTMAS with special guest performance by Deantha Edmunds on Thursday, December 16, 8pm, at 81 Cochrane Street. \$30 Regular Tickets, \$20 for students, seniors and arts workers. Tickets at jazzeastchristmas.eventbrite.ca. Jazz East has been performing in St. John's for twenty four years, and is featuring some of St. John's finest, such as Gary Johnston (piano), Natasha Blackwood (saxophone), Kristina Bernardo (vocals), and Terry Campbell (trumpet). COVID protocol: Vax Passes will be scanned at the door, and masks must be worn at all times. Seating is general seating. Guests are asked to please give space to other patrons who are not a part of their group. For questions, please contact natasha@firstlightnl.ca

O HOLY NIGHT: Get into the magic of Christmas with **Shelley Neville** and her special guests: Cory Tetford, David Pomery, Peter Halleyand, of course, her Dad John and brother Johnny. Join them 8pm on December 19, 20 or 21 at 81 Cochrane Street. Tickets \$58.50 via eventbrite.ca or 754-2532.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG: Strike the harp and join the chorus! St. James United Church warmly invites everyone to join in their Community Christmas Story and Carol Sing-along on **Sunday, December 19, at 7 pm!** Come hear and celebrate the story of Jesus Christ's birth through readings, poems, music, pictures of artwork from around the world and sing Christmas carols! Music provided by St. James' talented musicians and singers with special guests, **Newfound Sound Women's Barbershop Chorus!** No charge; donations for Bridges to Hope Food Aid will be collected. Vax passes and masks required. St. James is an accessible, inclusive church. For information call 722-1881.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Next year, 2022, is the 140th anniversary of our congregation worshipping on Cochrane Street. I thought it might be interesting to look back 40 years. All "Notes" from November 14 to December 19 are taken from the 1982 Annual Report.

The Choir, reporting a membership of 26, was present at all worship services with special music presented at Easter and Christmas. The annual Afternoon Tea and Musicale held near St. Patrick's Day was its usual success. During 100th anniversary celebration services of the congregation former choir members were welcomed back to perform with the Choir. The Junior Choir was reorganized and led the music during the Christmas Eve Family Service and performed with the Senior Choir during the service of lessons and carols.