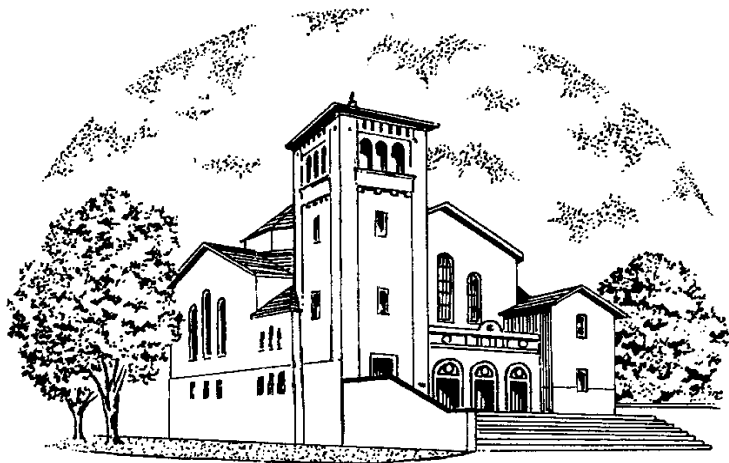


# Cochrane Street United Church

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



## December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

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

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Evan Smith

(t) 709-722-3023      (f) 709-722-3260

[info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com)

[www.cochranestreetuc.com](http://www.cochranestreetuc.com)

# GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*please stand as you are able

## PRELUDE:

## \*INTROIT:

## \*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 MV 6: A Candle is Burning

We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame,  
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
As God comes among us, the Christians true light

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.

**For out of God's own being,**

**Jesus has come to bring light and love to all people.**

Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
come to gather our tears and laughter,  
our work and our play, into God's loving embrace.

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.**

## PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God of all ages,

in the birth of Christ

your boundless love for your people

shattered the power of darkness.

Be born in us with that same love and light,

that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth

**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**\*CAROL**

### **LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

We light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be

We light this candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

We light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

We light this candle as a reminder of Joseph who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

We light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know... He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

**\*CAROL**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Holy God, you offer us new life  
in the baby at Bethlehem,  
but we confess that we have made something trivial,  
something sentimental, out of Christmas.  
Your light comes into the world,  
and we see only the pretty lights on trees.  
You shine in the darkness,  
but we turn away from the darkness of our world,  
and miss you.  
Your Word is made flesh,  
but we would like something nicer, more spiritual,  
than the humanity of God with us.  
Forgive us, God:  
strengthen us with the hope  
that cannot be packed away**

**with the Christmas ornaments;  
May we who have beheld this glory  
hold it in our hearts forever. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

**Fear not, I bring you tidings of great joy for all people!  
Christ our Saviour is born. We are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**\*CAROL**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY**

**\*OFFERTORY HYMN MV # 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**

**GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

**Eternal God,**

**In the reading of scripture, may your Word be heard;**

**In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;**

**In the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown.**

**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 61:10 62:3**

**The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 148 page 871**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22 – 40

Reader: Paul Bowlby

The Word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO: *William the Angel* – Evan Smith**

### **John Wesley's Covenant Service**

History:

On Christmas Day, John Wesley wrote that he, “Urged the wholly of giving up of ourselves to God and renewing in every point our covenant with that the Lord should be our God.” Toward the end of his life it became a tradition to have a service of Covenant on New Year's day or the Sunday closest to the New Year. John Wesley writes this introduction to the service:

“Dearly beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin, and through him consecrated to God. ...On one side the Covenant is God's promise that He will fulfill in and through us all that He declared in Christ Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of our faith. That His promise still stands we are sure, for we have known His goodness, and proved His grace in our lives day by day.

On the other side we stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, and has called us to serve Him that the purpose of His coming might be fulfilled.” (*The Handbook of the Christian Year*, 1996)

### **The Covenant**

And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with willing bonds to our covenant God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us. This taking of Christ's yoke means that we are heartily content that he appoint us our place and work, and that he alone be our reward. Christ has many services to be done; Some are easy, others are difficult;

Some bring honour, others bring reproach;  
Some are suitable to our natural inclinations  
and temporal interests,  
others are contrary to both.  
In some we may please Christ and please ourselves;  
In others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.  
Yet the power to do all these things  
is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us.  
Therefore let us make the Covenant of God our own.  
Let us engage our hearts to the Lord,  
and resolve in his strength never to go back.  
Being thus prepared, let us now,  
in sincere dependence on God's grace  
and trusting in God's promises,  
yield ourselves anew to God.

*All are invited to stand.*

O Lord God, you have called us through Christ to be partakers in this gracious Covenant. We take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for love of Christ, to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

**I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will;  
Put me to doing, put me to waiting;  
Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
Exalted for you or brought low for you;  
Let me be full, let me be empty;  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing;  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed triune God,  
you are mine, and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the Covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

**\*CAROL**

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

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **SUNG RESPONSE: O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

#### **\*CAROL**

### **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: #87:**

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun.

### **POSTLUDE**

## NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Happy New Year!

How many remember Watch Night services at Cochrane Street? Long a practice in the Methodist and other churches, (John Wesley wrote a service in 1740 for such an event), at Cochrane Street they were held on New Year's Eve at about 11:15 and were a wonderful way to welcome the New Year. It was a way to say goodbye to the past year and greet the coming year with confidence and hope.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome:** A warm welcome to our friends from Gower Street United Church.

**Volunteers & Donations:** The church council is hosting a meal for the tenants of Cochrane Centre on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. We are looking for donations for a Turkey dinner (turkey, vegetables, salt meat etc.). We are also looking for volunteers to help out with cooking, setting up, and clean up. If you wish to make a donations or volunteer please contact Rev. Miriam at 722-3023 or by email: [revmiriam@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:revmiriam@cochranestreetuc.com)

## MEMEORIAL DONTATIONS

In memory of Lorraine Critch from Audrey Burry.