

Cochrane Street United Church

81 Cochrane Street



St. John's, NL



A1C

3L7



March 12th, 2023
3rd Sunday in Lent

Guest Presider: Rev. Karen Bursey

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson

Technical Operations: John Williams, Jackabon Media

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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 MV #7: **Gather Us In**

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in,

Ground us, ground us in you.

***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 #328: Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring (vs. 1)**

1 Jesu, joy of our desiring,
holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by you, our souls aspiring
soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
with the fire of life impassioned,
striving still to truth unknown,
soaring, dying round your throne.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Come, faithful people, and find that quiet centre
where God may enter in.

**We gather as God's people: hungry for holy presence,
ready for God's Word to us.**

Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Living God, in this time of sacred quiet make us wise to believe that you, who created the universe and still govern its destiny, can create in us new hearts and govern our daily lives; that you welcome not only our praise and thanksgiving, but also our anger and doubt, our passions and brokenness.

Receive all our worship this day, for we offer it in spirit and truth, through Jesus our Redeemer. Amen

***HYMN:**

God Reveal Your Presence

391 VU

LENTEN SYMBOLS

Lenten Symbols - Bread

"The kingdom of heaven is like this. A woman takes some yeast and mixes it with a bushel of flour until the whole batch of dough rises."Mt 13:33

Yeast is somewhat like God's transforming power, for both work invisibly, silently and powerfully.

Just as dough is changed from the inside when yeast is added, our lives can be changed from within when we accept the grace, mercy and love of God.

But we admit that more often we are like a lump of clay rather than risen dough. We do not fully accept our responsibility to be "change agents"

We place on the cross a small loaf of bread as a reminder that the kingdom is like the prepared, risen dough. May God's power be like yeast working within us until the time we are transformed.

(A candle is extinguished and the bread placed on the cross)

PRAYER

God of the wilderness, be with us as we wander through the desert of our lives. Keep us from running back to the safety of old assumptions, and walk with us as we learn to live the life abundant. Amen.

***HYMN: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (vs. 1) # 121 VU**

VERSE 1:

Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn,
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.

3rd Sunday:

Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation
flow in us and make us whole,
flow in us and make us whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of eternity, you know how often we travel down the rocky roads of doubt and fear. We pester others with our worries; we hurl bitter words at those we love. We have chances to offer ourselves in service, but only give our contempt to those in need. We could share the living waters with the world, but want to store it in jars for safe-keeping.

Fountain of Grace, you turn towards us, to meet us wherever we are. You break open our rock-hard sin, so we might be made whole. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, our thirst for hope and joy is quenched.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

God does not disappoint us. Our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we are sent forth to serve. In Jesus Christ, living water breaks through the roof of our hearts, in such abundance that we don't have enough buckets to hold it all.

LEARNING TOGETHER

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY HYMN VU #149: When I Survey (vs. 4)**

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 that were a present far too small:
 love so amazing, so divine,
 demands my soul, my life, my all.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Extravagant God,
like the woman who anointed Jesus' feet, you lavish us with love and acceptance and ask that we love and accept others. In offering these gifts, we express our commitment to your way. May they bring hope and shalom to this congregation and to your world. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen**

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Eternal God,

who caused all scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 17:1-7

Reader: Heather McMaster

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

***RESPONSIVE PSALM 95: VU #814 (Part One 1-7, Part Two 8-11)**

Reader: Heather McMaster

EPISTLE READING: Romans 5:1-11

Reader: Heather McMaster

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

GOSPEL READING: John 4:5-42

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ – **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN: When I Needed a Neighbour # 600 VU**

SERMON:

ANTHEM: Dear Lord Father of Mankind, by C Parry

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN: I Heard the Voice of Jesus # 626 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 BENEDICTION

May the blessing of God give us strength for the journey;
may the Spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road;
may the love of Christ make us caring companions;
as together we go forth in the Lenten time. Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION VU #430: God Be in My Head

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

*POSTLUDE

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAR 12: CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey

MAR 19: CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey

MAR 26: CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey

APR 02: **Palm Sunday**

CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey

APR 07: **Good Friday Service**

APR 07: St. John's & Mt Pearl churches
to join CSUC

APR 09: **Easter Sunday** & Communion
CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursey

APR 16: CSUC - TBA

APR 23: Rev. Oliver Dingwell
Cowan Heights to join CSUC

ANNOUNCEMENTS: If you wish to have an announcement included in the bulletin, please have it into the office by Thursday at noon.

STORM WATCH: Please check out radio stations and media outlets for storm watch information on Sunday morning in case the church is closed due to weather.

No SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE! A friendly reminder that members of our congregation are sensitive to scented products. Thank you for helping.

PASTORAL COVERAGE FOR CSUC: While Cochrane Street United Church is without a minister, Rev. Oliver Dingwell will be covering all pastoral emergencies and funerals. He can be reached at (709) 640-4632 or by email at: odingwell@cowanheightsunited.ca. If Rev. Oliver is not available, please contact Paula Reynolds pt2reynolds@gmail.com.

Worship service will be held in the community hall: We are continuing to have furnace problems, so the sanctuary continues to be cold. Until all repairs have been completed, we encourage using the Bannerman Entrance door. Bannerman parking lot and the path from Stewart Ave Entrance to the Bannerman parking lot have been well cleared. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

SEEKING 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS: The Church Council is seeking members of the congregation to sit on the 2023 Church Council. This is necessary to ensure compliance with the United Church governance requirement and to provide the continued leadership of our church, particularly in the coming year which is a pivotal year for Cochrane Street. The Church Council generally meets monthly in the evenings. There will be a number of vacancies on Council in the coming year as a number of members who have served are stepping down. If you are interested in being part of the Church Council, please email the Council Chair, Stephen B. Jewczyk (sjewczyk@gmail.com; telephone 763-3213) or Brian Johnston at bjohnston@nl.rogers.com.

COFFEE TIME HOSTS: We are looking for people to volunteer as hosts for Coffee Time after church. Just tea and coffee is fine – no need to provide juice or snacks. We have a volunteer for February. If you are willing to help host, please contact the office (722-3023). Don't know what to do? No problem. We can help you out by pairing you with someone who has done it before or just giving you an orientation. Your help is very much appreciated! If you are unable to participate, monetary donations are welcomed.

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. Volunteers 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 Brian Johnston who is the lead for Council with this project, through the church office at 722-3023 or info@cochranestreetuc.com.

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 March, we are suggesting 1 Litre of Juice.** Of course all donations of any kind are very much appreciated. Thank you for your support!

Weekly **“Specials”** March 9 – 15, 2023 - Useful items for Bridges To Hope:

- Walmart – Primo Pasta or Pasta Sauce - \$0.97
- Dominion – **Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99 ***
- Lawtons – Compliments Evaporated Milk – 4/\$5.00
- Heinz Beans or Pasta – 4/\$5.00
- Pipers – Cheez Whiz – 450g - \$3.99

BRIDGES TO HOPE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN:

As we are all aware, Bridges to Hope (B2H) is currently struggling with the demands that are being placed on it by individuals and families that depend on the centre for food aid assistance. Your continued and

ongoing voluntary assistance and financial and food contributions to B2H, which is one of our Outreach Ministries, has been both appreciated and much needed.

The Lenten season is a time to practice the sharing of our gifts with the wider community. Since we haven't had a full-time minister for much of last year, we have funds normally allocated to worship that we can put to more immediate needs and ministries. This Lenten season, the Church Council wishes to share this gift to the wider community through B2H by undertaking a fundraising campaign that will end on Easter Sunday. Within that time period, the Church Council is prepared to match the funds raised by the congregation up to the amount of \$2,500.00. In other words, if the individual donations total \$2,500.00, Council is prepared to match that amount with another \$2,500.00 which will result in a total contribution of \$5,000.00 for B2H.

You can make your donations via electronic donation at csuctreasurer@gmail.com, place an envelope in the collection plate marked "Bridges To Hope" or mail your donation to Cochrane Street United Church, 81 Cochrane Street, St. John's, NL A1C 3L7. The need is great. Your generosity can respond to that need.

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA: On Monday, February 6, a massive magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit southern Turkey and neighbouring Syria. We hold in our thoughts and prayers all those affected. The United Church of Canada (UCC) has launched a [fundraising appeal](#) to support the people in recovering from their enormous loss. As a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, UCC has joined the Humanitarian Coalition in asking Canadians to [give to help those impacted by the crisis](#).

Online: via our [secure donation page \(opens in a new tab\)](#).

Phone: 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

Send a cheque or money order to:

The United Church of Canada
Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Türkiye" on the face of your cheque.

REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING: The closing motion of the 4th Annual Meeting of the region on May 15, 2022, named the 5th Annual Meeting of the Regional Council to be held virtually, using zoom video conferencing on May 12-14, 2023. To give Regional Council members time to consider proposals, please ensure they are received by March 31, 2023. Proposals information and template can be found here: <https://ucceast.ca/77332-proposals-information-and-templates>

In preparation for the FDEE Annual Meeting, please refer to the posted materials on the Regional website: <https://ucceast.ca/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-16/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-annual-meeting-2023>