

Cochrane Street United Church

81 Cochrane Street



St. John's, NL



A1C

3L7



March 19th, 2023
4th Sunday in Lent

Guest Presider: Rev. Karen Burseay

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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www.cochranestreetuc.com

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 MARCH

Keith Bowden, Harold Grandy, Brian Johnston,
Sandy Stavlo, and Sandra Garland

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Thursdays 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Fridays 9:00 am – 3:30 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

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES AND FUNERALS

Rev. Oliver Dingwell will cover all pastoral emergencies and funerals.
He can be reached at (709) 640-4632

Like us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter!
www.facebook.com/Cochranestreetuc and @CochraneStreet

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 #30: Hail to God's Own Anointed (vs 2)

Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

*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 #670: Precious Lord Take My Hand (vs 1 & 3)

Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord,

When the darkness appears,
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord,

lead me home

lead me home

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

We rise from our work and leisure

to bring healing and hope to others.

In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries,
the Spirit is with us.

The Light of life, it shines on us in every moment of every day.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Most Holy God, we rejoice in our awareness of your presence.

As you enter our lives, refresh and renew us; grant that we may live with love in the example of Jesus the Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

***HYMN:**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

371 VU

LENTEN SYMBOLS

Lenten Symbols - Chain

The image of Jesus bound and fettered is a most unpleasant one, and yet we must recognise that each of us continues to bind Jesus when we keep our brothers and sisters in bondage. We bind our fellow pilgrims when we keep them dependant on us and enslaved by us. Around us are persons who do not know about fair equal pay, safe working conditions, and a realistic standard of living. They are chained to a way of life that includes fear, repression and dependency.

We also see around us persons who seem bound to traditions, fearful of change and unwilling to experience new life.

We place on the cross a chain, symbolic of the bondage we create and a reminder of the Good News that we are bound by Jesus' love.

(A candle is extinguished and the chain hung from 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 & 4th Sunday) # 121 VU**

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,

Give us eyes to see you clearly,
make us children of your light;
give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright,

still you rise with every morn.

as your gospel shining bright.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Like Cinderella, Loving God, we sit in the ashes of our hopes, but you see us as your beloved children. We pay strict attention to all who break the rules, but ignore the grace which is poured out upon us. We try to box you in with boundaries we can manage, but you continue to burst forth to bring newness into the world.

Have mercy on us, God of forgiveness, and open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see others in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but sisters and brothers of the same family, kin to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

The Spirit of the Lord has come upon us, bringing hope, life, and forgiveness for each person.

Now we will go forth as God's children, sent to bring the good news to everyone we meet. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

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

With you as our shepherd and by sharing our gifts, we can indeed anoint others with grace, prepare feasts for the hungry, welcome the stranger, and love those we consider to be our enemies. Bless these gifts, and use our lives for others, we pray. Amen

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

**God, the words you speak have power:
power to create, power to disturb, power to heal.
Help us to hear your Word for us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING **1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

Reader: Linda Facey

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

***SUNG PSALM 23:** **VU # 747**

GOSPEL READING: **John 9: 1-41**

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

SERMON:

ANTHEM: *Goin Home, by Dvorak*

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD’S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (VU # 921)

***HYMN:** **To Show By Touch and Word** **# 427 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 19:	CSUC – Rev. Karen Burse	APR 09:	Easter Sunday & Communion CSUC – Rev. Karen Burse
MAR 26:	CSUC – Rev. Karen Burse	APR 16:	CSUC - TBA
APR 02:	Palm Sunday CSUC – Rev. Karen Burse	APR 23:	Rev. Oliver Dingwell Cowan Heights to join CSUC COMMUNION & ACM
APR 07:	Good Friday Service All St. John's & Mt Pearl churches to join CSUC (12pm -3pm)		

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.

The Gower Service and Social Club (formerly the Gower Men's Club) will be holding its next dinner meeting on Tuesday, March 21, starting at 6:00pm. The main course is Mediterranean Cod with all the trimmings. The after-dinner speaker is Dr. A.J. Shawyer, retired professor of Geography at Memorial University. She is the co-author, along with Dr. Christopher Sharp (also a retired professor of Geography at Memorial), of the recently published book *Corner Windows and Cul-de-sacs: The Remarkable Story of Newfoundland's First Garden Suburb* (2022). This book gives an account of the establishment and early development of Churchill Park on the north side of St John's. Copies will be for sale at a cost of \$30 (including tax), a percentage of which will be donated to the Gower Service and Social Club.

Remember, as well as changing our name at our February meeting, we also raised the price of our dinners to \$15.00 (\$10.00 for students). Anyone who is not already a member of the club and who would like to attend the dinner meeting should contact Bert Riggs at briggs@mun.ca by 1:00pm on Sunday, March 19.

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 March. 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.

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.

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 is suggesting a food item for members of our partner congregations to consider for donation. These items are staples that 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 16-22, 2023 – Useful items for Bridges To Hope:



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|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sobeys – | French's Mustard - \$1.99 |
| | Heinz Beans or Pasta – 4/\$4.88 |
| Dominion - | Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.49 |
| | No Name Evaporated Milk - \$0.99 *** |
| Lawtons - | Kraft Cheez Whiz - \$3.97 |
| Shoppers - | Colgate/Crest Toothpaste - \$0.99 |
- *** *Members' Price, i.e. with PC Optimum Points Card*