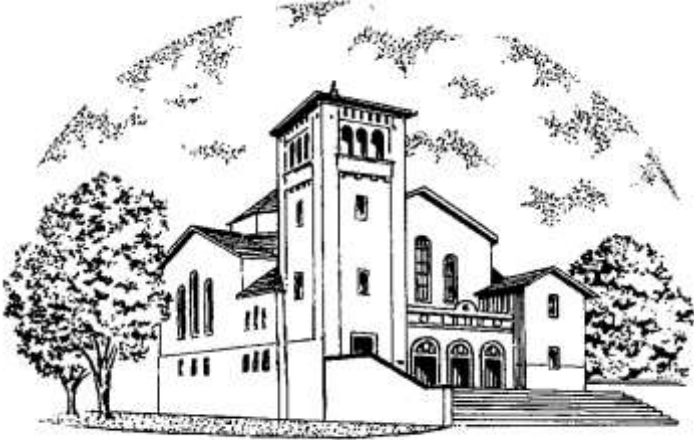


Cochrane Street United Church

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



March 3rd, 2024 **3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**

Presider: Rev. James Ravenscroft
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** indicates 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 the congregational email for detailed announcements.

INTROIT : "Let Us Build a House" (MV #1, v5)

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

*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: "You Servants of God" (VU #342, v1)

1 You servants of God, your Saviour proclaim,
and publish abroad that wonderful name;
the name all victorious of Jesus extol,
whose kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Lent calls us into prayer and reflection, this and every day,
to ponder who we are in God and how we can live in God's way.
Lent calls us to journey with Jesus who embodies God's way,
to follow him even when doing so is risky, even troubling.
Lent calls us to take risks in service of God's justice and love,
to trust in the One who gives us life, and life to all the world.
Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**God of the journey, we come together in this reflective time,
our hearts open to your presence within us and between us.
Be with us in these Lenten days, as your Spirit invites us
to grow in all of our relationships, reminding how each and
every one of them is grounded in your love.
In the name of Jesus your Beloved Son we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN: "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" (VU #108)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Confronting God, we give thanks for Jesus who came to clear
space in our hearts, shaking us from the way we take even holy
things and find a way to use them for our benefit alone.
We redefine your commandments for our comfort, while using
other definitions to judge those who make us uncomfortable.
We create rituals that satisfy our spiritual needs and exclude
those whose needs are met in ways we don't understand.
Forgive our failure to knock down barriers, and help us turn the
tables, freeing us from all that holds us from you and others.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our model and guide. Amen.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

LEARNING TOGETHER

***HYMN: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (VU #382)**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY HYMN: "For the Gift of Creation" (VU #538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND OPENNESS

**We give thanks O God for your many gifts,
the gift of our world, of each other, of community,
and of this season of reflection that is before us.
Guide us through these days, that as we reflect on your word, our
hearts may turn more fully toward you,
and to Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

READING: Exodus 20: 1–17

Reader: Sandy Stavlo

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 19 (VU p. 740, Refrain 2)**

READING: John 2: 13–22

Reader: Linda Facey

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM / SOLO: Drop Drop Slow Tears, by Kerry Andrew

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

GOD'S WORD LIVED OUT AT TABLE

***HYMN: "Now to Your Table Spread" (VU #456)**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jesus shared meals with saints and sinners, faithful and doubting,
revealing God's healing and reconciling love to all.

As we share this meal, we are renewed in God's love and life.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We gladly lift them to God.

Let us give thanks.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, holy God, we gather round this table seeking nourishment for the journey, for you are a God of grace and promise. We gather in thanksgiving for this holy time as we discover anew your gift of covenant – entered into with Noah and all creation, given to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants, made known at Sinai to Moses and the Hebrew people, renewed again and again through the words of your prophets. Then in the fullness of time you extended your covenant once more through the witness of Jesus. And so it is we join with all who have gone before us, proclaiming your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna to you, saving God, as we gather in memory of Jesus who on the night before he died gathered with his followers to mark the Passover, calling to mind the power of your liberating love. Aware that this meal would be the last that they shared, Jesus took bread and after sharing the blessing, gave it to them saying, “This is my body, given for you.” In the same way he took the cup, and gave it to them saying, “This is the cup of blessing, sign of the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you do this, remember me.”

Recalling his death and resurrection, proclaiming his promise of abiding presence, we share this meal together.

With thanks for the living relationship we share in Christ, we pray that you send your Spirit upon us and these gifts. May all who share this living bread and saving cup be renewed in your covenant, called out into your world to share the healing promise of your saving love. Holy One we give you praise, through Your Word made flesh, in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (p.921 VU)

**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.**

SHARING IN COMMUNION

This is the Bread of Life and this is the Cup of Love.
Come and be nourished. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms a making of peace; and our prayer the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our saving Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

***HYMN: "Bless Now O God the Journey" (VU #633)**

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

Go now with God, on your journey through Lent.

We will discover the new name given to each one we meet.

Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads.

We will put all our fears, as well as our longings, behind us.

Go now with the Spirit, who is always full of surprises.

We will share the good news called Jesus with everyone.

SUNG BENEDICTION: "God of Grace & God of Glory" (VU #686, v1)

1 **God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
 bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour.**

POSTLUDE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday, MARCH 03 | CSUC – Rev. James Ravenscroft COMMUNION |
| Sunday, MARCH 10 | CSUC – Bert Riggs |
| Sunday, MARCH 17 | CSUC – Rev. Miriam Bowlby |
| Sunday, MARCH 24 | CSUC Service @ St. James UC PALM SUNDAY |
| Sunday, MARCH 31 | CSUC – Rev. Peggy Johnson EASTER SUNDAY / COMMUNION |

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

NO SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE! A friendly reminder that members of our congregation are sensitive to scented products. Thank you for helping create a safe environment in which we can all fully participate.

PARKING ON SUNDAYS: If the Bannerman parking lot is full when you arrive, there MAY be parking available at Stewart Avenue that's behind the building previously known as the College of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CRNLL).

PASTORAL COVERAGE FOR CSUC: Rev. Peggy Johnson is covering all pastoral emergencies and funerals. She can be reached at (709) 685-9223 or by email at peggyjoanjohnson@hotmail.com. If Rev. Peggy is not available, please contact Paula Reynolds at pt2reynolds@gmail.com.

PILOT PROJECT WITH ST. JAMES: Our pilot project with St. James will partially commence on Sunday, March 3rd, 2024. *Tim Reynolds*
Chair, Church Council

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL: Many of you were asking to see a copy of the resolution that was passed at the recent Cochrane Centre membership meeting held on February 4th. I recently received a copy of the resolution from Jim Carscadden, a member of the Cochrane Centre board. Here it is:

Moved by Stephan Jewczyk and seconded by Charlie Pope Jr.

It is moved that approval be given to initiate discussions with First Light regarding its ownership proposal, with the goal of reaching an agreement between First Dawn Eastern Edge, Cochrane Centre, First Light and Cochrane Street United Church regarding the congregation's continuing access to worship in the building and identifying those sacred and significant items and elements within the sanctuary that will be protected while the congregation continues to worship in the building.

In Favour 33

Abstained 1

We will have a congregational meeting immediately after our upcoming AGM to reconfirm all of the significant items and elements within the sanctuary that need protection. *Tim Reynolds, Council Chair*

RESCHEDULED – UPCOMING RENOVATION: First Light received a grant from Service NL to renovate the washroom near the Minister's office to make it fully accessible – lowered sink, leveled floor, button on the door, and a nice face lift! Renovations will now begin on Monday, March 4, 2024, and should be finished in two weeks. In the meantime, there are washrooms available near the community hall / event space.

TAX RECEIPTS were mailed Monday, February 26, 2024. If you have not received yours by the end of February, please let the office know (709-722-3023, info@cochranestreetuc.com).

BRIDGES TO HOPE ITEM OF THE MONTH: For each month of 2024, Bridges To Hope will be suggesting a much needed food item for members of our partner congregations to consider for donation. For **FEBRUARY**, we are suggesting 1L OF JUICE. Of course other non-perishable items are always welcome. **MARCH's** item of the month is beans.

St. James United Church Events:

Mar 3 3pm Wild Light Spiritual Oasis Eco-Spirituality Group

Mar 3 7pm Taize prayer

For details contact james@stjamesuc.org.

St. James – Reflective Thursdays at 12:30: Each Thursday throughout Lent, (Rev.) James will lead an informal communion service in the Fellowship Room. Communion is at 12:30PM, followed by the the sharing of lunch. Bring a bag lunch if you wish and have lunch together!

St. James – Make Your Lent Green: This year we are using a green lens as we explore the readings for each Sunday in Lent. Why not make your whole Lent green? One way to do this is to follow the suggestions by A Rocha, a Christian environmental organisation started in the UK. Here is a link to their UK website: <https://arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/>

St. James – Lent is the Grace to Grieve, by Joan Chittister: Lent is that season of the church year that is most commonly associated with penance. But there is a danger lurking in that definition. The scripture for the opening of Lent, Joel 2:12-18, takes us back to a time of great danger. Joel says "Rend your hearts and not your clothing." Lent is a call to weep for what we could have been and are not. Lent is the grace to grieve for what we should have done and did not. Lent is the opportunity to change what we ought to change but have not. Lent is not about penance. Lent is about becoming, doing and changing whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now. Lent is a summons to live anew.

St. James Outreach and Action Committee is discerning a future initiative of offering ESL/EFL classes (English as a second or foreign language conversation classes). This is an awesome opportunity to train for that! Call Tom Dawe for details at 738-397 or check the following website www.teachersonwheels.ca.