

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

Jalna McMaster, Fraser Ellis, Jo-Ann Kelly,
David Molyneux, Sig Lenser,

THIS WEEK AT COCHRANE STREET DECEMBER 14 – DECEMBER 20

Thursday: 10:00 Zoom Prayer Group
Sunday: 10:00 AM Choir Practice

OFFICE

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

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 VU #7: Hope Is a Star vs. 3

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.

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 #17: O Ancient Love vs. 3

3 O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow: R
O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

With laughing hearts and joyous hope,
we come to you, O God.

With tired souls and withered dreams,
we come to you, O God.

In our joy and in our sorrow,
we turn to you, O God.

Renew us with your love.

Gather us into your strong embrace,
that we may know your presence
and rejoice in your promised coming.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God, the One who comes in your name comes again
with grace and power,
with forgiveness and strength,
with truth and imagination,
with gentleness and love.

May the Coming One enter the hearts
of those who wait with quiet expectation
for all that is good and holy and just. Amen.

HYMN VU # 35: Good Christian Friends Rejoice vs. 1 & 2

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Readers: Ebonee, Lyla, Amina & Nolan Hicks

Reader: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons.

Reader: We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down.

Reader: We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. We deck our halls because Christ is coming.

Reader: Luke tells us that God sent angels to bring tidings of great Joy. The shepherds shook with fear. God can turn fear into joy. God can turn the ordinary into extraordinary.

Reader: The angels sing, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people."

Reader One: We light this candle of joy knowing that God's joy breaks through our fear. We light this candle, rejoicing that Christ is coming!

(The Third pink candle is lit)

All: Show us the beautiful things in this season, O God. Not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of heart and soul, the beauty of love shared in serve and hospitality. The beauty that you turn our fear into joy, the beauty that you are coming!

Hymn VU #6: 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 This Night vs. 1&3

- 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!
- 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

- 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:

**God of Courage, be in our speaking.
Be also in our listening,
and speak to our souls' deep understanding.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1 - 10

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

***RESPONSIVE PSALM 96**

O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations
his marvelous works among all the peoples

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens

**Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

**Say among the nations, “The LORD is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8 - - 14

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

SOLO: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” Darrin Martin

SERMON: There’s an Angel Your House

Rev. Miriam & Evan Smith

Reflective Music

**GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Cantor:

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Presider:

God, most holy, we do give you thanks as we gather at Christ's table,
as we remember your love, holy and whole,
a love that has held us from the beginning of the beginning,
and a love that will hold us for as long as time exists.

Cantor:

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily,
To us the paths of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to grow.

Choir: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Presider:

We need your Wisdom, God.
We need your guidance.
We need your invitation – your calling –
Your whispers and your shouts –
Through the voices of prophets and priests,
Grandmothers and grandfathers,
Children and infants,
All who listen and speak your love.

Cantor & Choir:

O come, o come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Presider:

Because we didn't always listen –
Because we don't always listen –
You gave to us your Christ,
Alive in the world!

Cantor:

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
form every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Choir: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Presider:

Wholly God and wholly human,
A tiny baby, a teacher, a healer, a challenger, a saviour,
He laughed with those who laughed
And cried with those who cried –
But, most of all, he loved us with a love that never ever ends.
A love that surpasses even death.
A love that brings new life –
Not only to us... but to all creation!
Alleluia!

**All: O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Presider:

On the night before he was taken to his death on a cross,
Jesus gathered with his disciples ... he gathered with his friends.
He shared with them a meal of remembrance and freedom.
After an act of utmost humility and hospitality – washing their feet –
He blessed the bread and broke it, saying,

“Take this and eat it.

This is my body, given for you.

Each time you eat bread, remember me!”

As the meal drew to a close, he blessed a cup of wine and passed it to them, saying,

“Take this and drink it.

This is my promise in my life’s blood
that sins are forgiven.

Each time you drink, remember me!”

So we eat, we drink, and we remember!

Holy God, send your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts,

That they – and we – might truly be Christ’s body –

Alive in the world!

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

All glory is yours, God most holy,

Now and forever. **Amen.**

All: O come, Desire of nations, bind

all peoples in one heart and mind;

O bid our sad divisions cease, and be for us the Prince of

Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of Wine

The body of Christ.

Thanks be to God for the bread of life.

The blood of Christ.

Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing.

The Prayer After Communion
**With this taste of the Bread of Life,
With this taste of the Cup of Love,
Send us into the world, God –
So that we might whisper your coming,
So that we might sing your Advent,
So that we might live your birth,
Now and forever. Amen.**

Communion Liturgy by: Richard Bott: liturgy.richardbott.com

HYMN #48: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!' **R**

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R**

3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. **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 like 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 13 – Third Sunday of Advent 11 am (**COMMUNION**)

December 13 – Christmas on Cochrane 5 pm (*on-line only*)

December 20 – Lessons & Carols 11 am & 7 pm

December 20 – Christmas on Cochrane 5 pm

December 24 – Jesus' Birthday Party (outdoors) 5 pm

December 24 – Candles, Carols & Communion **9 pm**

December 27 – On-line Joint Worship Service
(Evan & Rev. Miriam at Cowan Heights)

January 3 – On-line Joint Worship Service
(Phil & Rev. Oliver at Cochrane)

PLANT SALE after church on Sunday. Geraniums, Coleus, African Violets, Christmas Cactus, Spider plants. All plants \$5.00 Please contact the church office for further details (722-3023 or info@cochranestreetuc.com).

2021 CHURCH CALENDARS can now be picked up at the church office or on Sunday if registered for in-person worship. There are still some available at a cost of \$6.00. To place an order, please contact the Church Office at 722-3023 or info@cochranestreetuc.com.

Advent/ Christmas Services: Attending special services during Advent/ Christmas is an important part of this season. It's also a time when we have many guests. We are opening registration to our church community first.

[Visit our website to register](#) or call the office at 722-3023.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

A NEW BEGINNING! Ninth of 9 Parts

The church was named **Cochrane Street Methodist Centennial Church** in recognition of the centenary of organized Methodism in St. John's. The name continued beyond the formation of the United Church of Canada, with the "Centennial" usage declining after 1944.