

Cochrane Street United Church

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



December 15, 2019 The Third Sunday of Advent

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

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

Minister of Music: Patricia Young

Director of Music: Evan Smith

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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.

Following worship there is a time of fellowship.

USHERING TEAM FOR DECEMBER

Keith Bowden, David Boone, John Bowden,
Eldred Butt, Harold Grandy

THIS WEEK AT COCHRANE STREET DECEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 22

Tuesday: 6:30 PM Choir Practice Bannerman Street Entrance
Sunday: 10:00 AM Choir Practice

OFFICE

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Thursdays 10:00 am – 3:00 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

While Rev. Miriam is on sabbatical, Rev. Bruce Kearley will be covering all pastoral emergencies and funerals.

You can reach him at (709) 739-9025

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

Worship Leader: Oliver Dingwell

PRELUDE:

*INTROIT:

People, Look East

#9VU

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

*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: **Hope Is A Star (vs. 3)**

#7VU

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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.

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Bill, Olivia, & Samantha Evans

Reader 1: We are a people of joy!

Reader 2: *John the Baptist called to the people, saying
"Prepare the Way of the Lord!"*

Reader 3: We are joyfully preparing to welcome the Messiah.

Reader 1: *The one who will change our world—and change us.*

Reader 2: We light this candle of joy!

Reader 3: *For God is to be among us,*

Reader 1: and we will see a great light in the midst of our night.

All: For we are a people of joy!

The third (pink) candle is lit.

SUNG RESPONSE: **A Candle is Burning (vs. 3)**

#6VU

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.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

God of faithfulness and truth,
You sent your servant John the Baptist
to preach in the desert
and summon the people to repent
and prepare for your coming.
Make us and all things new
through this time of worship,
that in the wilderness of our world
and in our lives,
we also may prepare a way for you. Amen.

***HYMN:**

ON JORDAN'S BANK

#20VU

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy and Loving God,
We have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments
and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
We ask in the name of the One who is to come. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

The Good News of this Advent Season
is the forgiveness of sin and the promise of new life.
Our Advent God who comes among us,
Sets us free to love and serve.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S TIME

***HYMN:**

TOMORROW CHRIST IS COMING

#27VU

OFFERING INVITATION AND OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY HYMN:**

What Child Is This? (vs. 3)

#74VU

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.

The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

God of joy,
We wait in eager anticipation at the coming of your Son.
Accept all we offer to you this day,
may it be used for the building up of your Kingdom,
which is to come. Amen.

GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Holy God, as we hear your word this day,
help us to hear the wonderful news:
you, yourself, are coming to dwell among us!
Inspire us to truly welcome you when we encounter you.
In Emmanuel’s name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

Reader: Laura Baker

**RESPONSIVE READING: LUKE 1:46b-55 – The Magnificat
(pg. 898VU – Refrain 1)**

Reader: Dave Tucker

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 3:1-12

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Special Music

SERMON:

***HYMN: COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE #883VU**

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD’S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, we await your coming...
Help us prepare your way.

THE LORD’S PRAYER #921VU

***HYMN: THERE’S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS #18VU**

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

CHORAL BENEDICTION: O Ancient Love

#17VU

- ancient love, processing through the ages;
 - hidden love, revealed in human form;
- promised love, the dream of seers and sages:
 - living Love, within our hearts be born,
 - living Love, within our hearts be borne.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements: If you wish to have an announcement included in the bulletin, please have it into the office by Wednesday 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.

DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- DEC 15 (11:00 am) – Third Advent Sunday (Oliver Dingwell)
- DEC 22 (11:00 am) – Lessons & Carols (Oliver Dingwell)
- DEC 24 (7:00 pm) – Family Service (Oliver Dingwell)
- DEC 24 (9:00 pm) – Communion Service (Oliver Dingwell, Rev. Karen Thorne)
- DEC 29 (11:00 am) – Christmas Fables & Hymns (Paula & Tim Reynolds)
- JAN 5 (11:00 am) – Epiphany (Oliver Dingwell)
- JAN 12 (11:00 am) – Baptism of Jesus (Rev. Bruce Kearley)
- JAN 19 (11:00 am) – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany (David Peters)
- JAN 26 (11:00 am) – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany (TBA)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Monday, December 16 (7:00pm) – Beer & Hymns, Bridie Molloy's
- Saturday, December 21 (4:00pm) – Christmas Messy Church and Children's Party
- Sunday, January 12 (11:00am) – Sunday School Commences

BEER & HYMNS: Next Beer and Hymns is Monday, **December 16**, at Bridie Molloy's, 7pm. Bring a friend and sing some Christmas hymns!!

Give Broadview Magazine! Special Gift Subscription Discount – only \$20 (plus tax) Makes an inspiring year-round gift for family and friends. Contact Paula Reynolds (325-2106) for your Order Form and Gift Card.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: Just a friendly reminder that Christmas memorials need to be received by the office by December 18.

COCHRANE CENTRE TENANTS: First Light is doing up baskets for each of the 15 tenants at Cochrane Centre for Christmas. As part of the Cochrane Centre community, **the congregation has the opportunity to contribute to these tenants as part of our community outreach.** There are already a lot of hygiene items and winter accessories, so some **small grocery gift cards would be an excellent addition** (ex. Belbins, Sobeys, Colemans, Shoppers). If you are interested in helping to share the joy, please submit your donation of gift cards to the church office by Wednesday, December 18. Office hours are 10am–3pm, Tue–Thu.

CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH AND CHILDRENS PARTY: Christmas Messy Church will be held on Saturday, **December 21**, at **4:00pm** in the community room for the children of our church. Those who will be attending are asked to contact the church office (info@cochranestreetuc.com or 722-3023) by Wednesday, December 18, so that we can estimate the number of children attending.

COCHRANE CENTRE AGM: Cochrane Centre Board held their AGM on December 5, 2019. The following are the members of the Board for 2019 – 2020:

David Tucker	Beverley Lane
John Perlin	Eric Coombs
Cheryl Sullivan-Critch	Lorraine Michael
Jim Carscadden	Reverend Miriam Bowlby, Ex-officio
Keith O'Neill	Reverend Faith March-MacCuish, Ex-officio

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMENCING!! Sunday School will start up again on Sunday, **January 12**, at 11:00am. A **BIG** thank you from Council goes out to those members of the congregation, youth, and friends who have agreed to volunteer their time as curriculum advisors, adult monitors, and teachers for the coming months!

COFFEE TIME HOSTS: We urgently require volunteers to serve coffee after Church, in order to give a break to the few people who have done it for a long time. There is a list by the entrance to the community hall where you can enter your name for a specific Sunday. Your help is very much appreciated!

THE UNITED CHURCH NATIONAL INIGENOUS COUNCIL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The National Indigenous Council has launched a call for nominations for several committees that will support the work of the Indigenous Church. These Committees include Indigenous Candidacy Board, Indigenous Justice Advisory Group (Indigenous Members), National Indigenous Council: Healing Programs Working Group, National Indigenous Council: Mission Support Working Group, and National Indigenous Council: Real Property and Capital Plan Working Group. Please share this information with people who might express their interest, or nominate others (www.united-church.ca/opportunities).
Closing Date: January 23, 2020.

The UNITED CHURCH BOOKSTORE is seeking volunteers to help with inventory. The days selected to do inventory are **DEC 16-20**. More hands make light work. If you have any time to give to help out with inventory please contact Leona Laundry at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6141 or l laundry@united-church.ca.

YOUTH RETREAT: The First Dawn Eastern Edge Steering Committee for Youth Events is excited to be offering a one day Youth Retreat on Saturday, **January 11, 9am–6pm**, at First United Church in Mount Pearl. In preparation for this event, we are looking for some food donations:

MEALS

Macaroni & Cheese
Wraps
Lettuce & Lettuce Wraps
Cheese
Tomatoes

Peppers

Deli Meats
Mustard
Sour Cream
Mayo
Ranch

SNACKS

Baby Carrots
Fruit
Baked Goodies
Chips & Salsa
Cheese Strings

As we are offering this retreat with no registration fee, we are hoping that local congregations would be willing to offer to donate some of the following to our event. Please contact Rebecca Pike (Rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com, 764-3740) if you are willing to donate. We can then inform our congregational contact how much of the items we need on January 7, 2020. Registration is now live online at <https://forms.gle/dquodShj32nAR9qQA!!>

Overeaters Anonymous (OA). Are you struggling with unhealthy eating behaviours? Give us a call. We are a support group whose program is based on physical, emotional and spiritual healing. We are a Twelve Step program for people facing serious eating problems. Call 709-738-1742, email info.oa.nl@gmail.com or visit our website: oanl.org.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

The annual reports of the congregation describe the Sunday School events at Christmas time. Here is the report for 1985. “Another highlight of our year was our Family Christmas gathering held on December 15 at 2:30 pm. The program included a perennial favourite, a presentation of the Nativity story by the Kindergarten class; presentations by Grades 1-3; Christmas candle lighting ceremony and caroling; decorating the tree; lunch with Santa and gifts... The Annual Christmas Eve White Gift Service saw our Sunday School participating in the program together with the Junior Choir and Youth Group.”