

Cochrane Street United Church

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



December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve Family Service
7:00 p.m.

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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GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

*Merry Christmas and thank you for joining us at Cochrane Street United Church for our Christmas Eve Family Service. Our Service this evening will proceed unannounced and as written in the Order of Service. You are invited to stand as you are able when indicated by **

Worship Leader: Oliver Dingwell

PRELUDE:

*HYMN:

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

#60VU

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: **R**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: **R**

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; **R**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **R**

*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. 5)**

#7VU

God comes to earth with hope, peace, and joy,
and with a love that no fear can destroy.

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:

The Jewczyk Family

Reader: Over the Sundays of Advent we have been lighting
candles to mark the approach of Christmas.

*Reader: The candles have served to remind us of hope, peace,
joy, and love – gifts God has promised to us in the birth
of Jesus.*

Reader: Each week another candle has been added to the glow,
and our wreath has shone more brightly.

*Reader: We first lit the candle of hope, praying that the flame of
hope may always burn within us (light purple candle).*

Reader: Then, we lit the candle of peace, recalling God's desire
that peace be within us and among us (*light purple candle*).

*Reader: We lit the candle of joy, anticipating the coming of God's
justice and peace with joy in our hearts (light pink candle).*

Reader: On Sunday, we lit the candle of love, singing praise for
God's love and goodness expressed in this world (*light
purple candle*).

*Reader: The weeks of waiting are now over. Tonight we light the
Christ candle to proclaim that the child who is born will be a
light to all the world. With the lighting of this candle, may we
welcome the Christ-child into our hearts (light centre white
candle).*

SUNG RESPONSE: A Candle is Burning (vs. 5)

#6VU

We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

God of the stable,

Help us to see the wonder of Christmas:

the wonder of children who can hardly wait,

the wonder of Mary and Joseph

who feel the power of God's love,

the wonder of the shepherds who hear the Good News,
the wonder of the Magi who kneel and offer their gifts,
and the wonder of the ages,
that God would come in such a simple birth. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY HYMN: In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 4) #55VU**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

God of Christmas,

**On this holy night we bring our gifts before you,
mindful that you have given us the most wondrous gift of all:
your Son, Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem.**

Accept all we offer this night,

May it be used to spread your love in the world. Amen.

WE HEAR AGAIN THE STORY

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 1:26-35, 38

Reader: Will Parsons

***HYMN: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING #48VU**

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

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**

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**

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 1:18-24

Reader: Kylie Bradbury

HYMN: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

#38VU

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. **R**

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. **R**

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 1:39-56

Reader: Leslie Matsikiti

HYMN:

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

#64VU

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:1-7

Reader: Oby Matsikiti

SOLO:

MARY DID YOU KNOW?

Emily Keeping

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:8-16

Reader: Carrie Parsons & Will Parsons

HYMN:

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

#36VU

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: **R**

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: **R**

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12

Reader: Jaxon Martin

HYMN:

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

#74VU

What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
**This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

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. **R**

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 1:1-14

Reader: Allannah Briggs

***HYMN:**

AWAY IN A MANGER

#69VU

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

WE GO FORTH TO SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

***HYMN:**

SILENT NIGHT

#67VU

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***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**

***HYMN:**

JOY TO THE WORLD

#59VU

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE INVITATION: The Church Council extends a special invitation for all to come celebrate the joy of Christmas at our Christmas Eve Family Service at 7:00pm and our Christmas Eve Communion Service at 9:00pm. To mark these special services, there will be a time of tea, coffee and fellowship in the community hall between the two services commencing at 8:00pm. The Church Council wishes everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and joy and happiness in the New Year.

FLOWERS: Flowers in the sanctuary are from June & Barry Hatfield in memory of Alex, Violet and Ted Reid, who are her dad, mom and brother

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.

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

DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 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

Sunday, January 5 (12:15pm) – Potluck Lunch with Cochrane Centre Tenants, hosted by the Church Council.

Sunday, January 12 (11:00am) – Sunday School Commences

New Year's POT LUCK Brunch: The Church Council invites the congregation to participate in a New Year's Pot Luck lunch immediately after worship service on **January 5, 2020**. The residents at Cochrane Centre have also been invited to join us to begin the New Year with a community brunch. The Church Council looks forward to this gathering to mark the new decade.

COCHRANE STREET TENANTS CHRISTMAS BASKETS: As part of the Cochrane Street family, the congregation can provide a donation toward the purchase of grocery gift cards for the tenants at Cochrane Centre. If you wish to contribute, please place a donation in an envelope marked Cochrane Centre Gift Cards in the collection plate at this Sunday's worship service or drop it off at the church office.

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.

YOUTH RETREAT: The First Dawn Eastern Edge Steering Committee for Youth Events is excited to be offering a one day Youth Retreat on **JAN 11, 9am–6pm**, at First United Church in Mount Pearl. As we are offering this retreat with **no registration fee, we are hoping that local congregations would be willing to offer to donate** to our event. Please contact Rebecca Pike (Rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com, 764-3740) if you can help. Registration: <https://forms.gle/dguodShj32nAR9qQA!!>

THE UNITED CHURCH NATIONAL INDIGENOUS COUNCIL CALL FOR NONINATIONS:

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.

Miracle on Cookstown Road: Bridges to Hope is asking you to support our Miracle on Cookstown Road Campaign to enable us to provide support to thousands of people within our St. John's community that go hungry. During the Christmas Season, we will see a huge increase in our food aid centre volume. Newfoundlanders have always had a strong tradition of helping those less fortunate. That is why today, we are hoping to count on you to make a donation to ensure that no family goes hungry in our community this holiday season. No amount is too small! Donate via Canada Helps or visit bridgestohope.ca/miracle if you wish to donate in person or by mail.

\$10 — Makes 20 loaves of Homemade Bread

\$25 — Makes 50 bowls of Homemade Soup

\$50 — 25 clients receive Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

\$100 — 20 kids receive 5 days supply of Healthy Snacks

\$250 — Feeds 10 families for 5 days

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

DECEMBER 24TH 9 PM

Communion

Guest preachers Rev. Karen Thorne and Oliver Dingwell

DECEMBER 29TH 11 AM

Christmas Fables and Hymns

Service leaders Paula & Tim Reynolds

JANUARY 5TH 11 AM

Guest preacher Oliver Dingwell

Potluck after church – bring something to share!

MEMORIALS

*In Memory of mother and father, Irene & Walter Tucker,
from Linda Facey and Marilyn Pardy and Families*

In Memory of the Drodge Family, from Betty Barnes

*In Memory of mother and father, Leah & Lewis Bursey,
and brother Gordon, from Doug & Joan Bursey*

*In Loving Memory of Dorothy & David Peters,
from son David Peters*

*In Memory of Ken Reynolds, a son, brother, father, husband,
brother in law, and uncle, With Love from Sonia, Paula & Tim,
Leah, Allen & Justine and Sarah Reynolds and Geralyn Lynch*

*In Memory of my parents, Lorraine & Les Critch,
from daughter Karen Critch*

