

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: Hope Waits

Hope Waits for Us at Advent

Verse 2

Amanda Udis-Kessler

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Peace waits for us at Ad-vent. Peace waits for us to rest. Peace waits for our ac-cep-tance of the truth that we are blessed. In this time of pre-par-a-tion for the work of co-cre-a-tion, for the birth-ing of a world of gen-tle-ness and play, Peace is born in us each day." The score includes various chords such as D, D/F#, G, A, Bm, G, Em, Cmaj7, Asus, A, G2, D/F#, Em7, G2, D/F#, G A Bm, C, G, D2, Em7, D/F#, G, G/B, Bm, A, and D. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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 7: Hope Is a Star

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth
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.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

If life was a home, then we would pray—

may love be the foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

**May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in. And may
hope be the walls—holding us together.**

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home
together.

We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Let us worship Holy God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Holy God,

You are our home.

You and your goodness are the place we return to,
the place we long to lay our head.

As we come in worship and praise,

Transform our hearts and souls

That our lives might reflect the home

you have envisioned for us

—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully
we pray, Amen.

HYMN VU 18: There's a Voice in the Wilderness vs. 1, 3 & 4

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

3 But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Readers: Blair, Carolyn and Kylie

Reader: Like the childhood game of “musical chairs,” we are convinced that there are not enough places at the table. And so we shrink the guest list just in case there is not enough, and we scramble to occupy the chairs first.

Reader: And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, robed in the garments of a Peace that comes with justice. This is what really matters—this is the fruit of what is right and good.

Reader: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives, we gather together around the candle of peace.

Reader: The home we long for is a home that knows peace— peace that rests between us and our grief,

Reader: peace around our anxiety,

Reader: peace amidst our relationships,

Reader: peace at the core of our being,

Reader: peace hovering through and in our world.

Reader: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

Reader: Today we offer the Light of Peace. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Peace awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

Reader: Let it be so. Amen.

Light Candle

Hymn: A Candle is Burning vs. 2

- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

LEARNING TOGETHER

HYMN VU 5: All Earth is Waiting

- 1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
- 2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

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 vs. 3

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, who speaks a good news language—
we admit, listening has never been our greatest gift.
We are easily distracted,
our minds run a million miles a minute.
we doubt your faith in us,
and take the easy way out when it comes to hope.
So today we bow our heads and ask for help.
Settle our hearts.
Quiet our minds.
Steady our breathing.
Help us to rest in you.
Help us to listen for your Good News.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

*RESPONSIVE READING

Luke 1:68 – 79

Reader: Jalna McMaster

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 **He has raised up a mighty savior^[a] for us
in the house of his servant David,**

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71 **that we would be saved from our enemies and from the
hand of all who hate us.**

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 **the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us**

74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

**75 in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.**

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon^[h] us,

**79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1 - 6

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

DUET: “What Child is This/ Child of the Poor”

William Austin and Claire Hartlen

SERMON:

Reflective Music

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 & Choir:

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

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

HYMN VU 28: Herald Sound the Note of Gladness

Herald! Sound the note of gladness!

Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert
for the one who brings God near.

Sound the trumpet!

Tell the message!

Christ the Saving One has come!

Herald! Sound the note of pardon!

Those repenting are forgiven;
God receives these wayward children,
and to all new life is given.

Sound the trumpet!

Tell the message!

Christ the Saving One has come!

Herald! Sound the note of judgement,
warning us of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness,
till once more we sing the song. **R**

Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power,
granting victory in our strife. **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 BLESSING

SUNG BENEDICTION MV 220: Peace Shines as a Solitary Star

Peace 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 5:	Christmas at Cochrane, 4pm
December 12:	WHITE GIFT SUNDAY, 11am
December 12:	Christmas at Cochrane, 4pm
December 12:	Blue Christmas Service, St. James United Church, 7pm Co-led with United Churches of Eastern Avalon Region
December 19:	LESSONS & CAROLS, 11am
December 19:	Christmas at Cochrane, 4pm
December 24:	Tree Lighting & Christmas Story, 4pm
December 24:	CANDLES & CAROLS, 7pm
December 24:	Candles, Carols & COMMUNION, 9pm
December 26:	No Service
January 2:	On-line Service

DECEMBER 12 IS WHITE GIFT SUNDAY! There is a Kindness Cupboard for the tenants at Cochrane Centre. They can take what they need in that moment. As a congregation, let's help keep those shelves filled. One way to do that is to bring along a grocery store gift. You can bring non-perishable food items such as pasta, pasta sauce, tinned pasta (Ravioli, etc), and canned milk.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: Just a friendly reminder that Christmas Memorials need to be received into the office by Wednesday, December 15.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: This year you can buy cards with Robert Young's beautiful picture of those stained glass windows that are on the north side of our sanctuary. \$5.00 for 10 cards. You can buy them on our website or the office, 722-3023.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Registration is now open for all our services in December including Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve. We are asking everyone to register for church on Christmas Eve. If you don't have access to a computer, please call the office at 722-3023 to register.

Volunteers Needed: We need extra volunteers to help scan vaccine passports for December 19 and Christmas Eve. All these services have higher than normal attendance and we will need extra people to scan vaccine passports. Without extra volunteers the services will start late. Please contact the office at 722-3023 or Rev. Miriam if you are able to volunteer (revmiriam@cochranestreetuc.com) or 728-8410.

Christmas on Cochrane Volunteers: We are looking for 5–6 volunteers each week for Christmas on Cochrane (December 5, 12 & 19). Volunteers will be helping collect food for Bridges to Hope, monitoring the barricades, helping set up the sound system and set up for the event. Please arrive 3:30pm. We should be done and cleaned up by 5:00pm.

CHRISTMAS ON COCHRANE: Everyone is welcome to join us for our newest Christmas tradition—a neighbourhood tree lighting. Each Week we will have Christmas Carols, special guests and a joyful celebration of community as each week we light up trees for hope, peace, joy and love! We will also be collecting food for Bridges to Hope. Here is a list of the items most in need: 1 litre Juice, canned milk, cereal, canned soup, canned beans, Mac-n-Cheese (ie kraft diner), canned pasta (Ravioli, etc) canned fruit, pasta foods/sauce, crackers, packaged meals (Sidekicks, Mr. Noodles etc), hygiene items.

Solid Wood Bookcase: We are looking for a solid wood bookcase to be donated so we can return our hymn books to the sanctuary. Why solid wood? It needs to go on wheels so the hymn books can be stored between services. Please call or email Rev. Miriam if you can donate a bookcase. (728-8410 or revmiriam@cochranestreetuc.com)

MEMORIALS

*In Loving Memory of Fred Rowe,
From June Knight*

*In Memory of Fred Rowe,
From the McMaster Family*

*In Memory of Beatrice Pope,
From Margot Evans*

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Next year, 2022, is the 140th anniversary of our congregation worshipping on Cochrane Street. I thought it might be interesting to look back 40 years. All “Notes” from November 14 to December 19 are taken from the 1982 Annual Report.

A week of Vacation Bible School was held June 21-25, 1982, under the direction of our Christian Education Director, Donna Landry. There were 38 young people participating in a variety of activities. One of the events of the week was preparing a slide presentation on “The Birth of Christ”. On Sunday afternoon, Dec 19, the slides were shown at a church family gathering.