



# Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future  
1916 – 2016

Minister: Rev. Miriam Bowlby, BA (hons), M.Div, MBA-SEE

## 2022 Easter Message from your Church Council

*“You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be”*

*(You Raise Me Up - Secret Garden 2002)*

Easter Greetings and the Peace of our Lord to you from Cochrane Street United Church Council. As we are now in the Lenten Season approaching Easter Sunday, we find ourselves once again grappling with uncertain times with the loosening of public health restrictions. To mask or not to mask, to venture out to group gatherings or to stay in our family bubble, to worship in person or to worship virtually – these are some of the difficult choices we each make on a daily basis. Covid restrictions was our winter and loosening them is our early spring. But as Jesus gave us hope in his resurrection so we too are sharing in the renewed hope of a return to more normalcy as we approach Easter and the coming summer season.

Easter is a time of hope and rebirth. This is so at Cochrane Street United Church. We are looking forward to the joy and celebration that brightens our spirits. As many are aware, there are personnel changes in the life of our Cochrane Street United Church. At the beginning of July, Rev. Miriam Bowlby will be embarking on a new journey with the United Property Resource Group of the United Church of Canada and Evan Smith, Director of Music, will be spending more time with his young family at the end of September. It is with heartfelt thanks that both have contributed so much to our congregational life and ministries.

Over the next number of months, a Mission Articulation Plan (MAP) will be prepared to assist in determining our future direction and the type of Ministry and Minister we will invite to lead the Cochrane Street family. A search has also begun to find that special person who will direct us in our Ministry of Music.

During these uncertain times we continue to ‘pivot’ and seek innovative ways to celebrate God’s presence in our lives and the prosperity of Cochrane Street United Church. We are once again considering how we can energize our clubs and groups beyond our weekly worship services as we move forward towards the new normal. Fundraising activities are being planned to provide additional financial resources to support our ministries and provide programming to our congregation. The focus of Council over the coming months will be to engage the congregation in exploring ways to continue our vision, to be sustainable and to be relevant in this ever changing world.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and we look forward to your keen participation. This is also the Sunday in which we will be celebrating the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cochrane Street united Church congregation. We should take the time to reflect on all the great things, the accomplishments and the service to community that Cochrane Street

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United Church has achieved over those 140 years. We continue to be a place of refuge, a home of caring and compassionate people who extend a hand of friendship to those who seek support, love and peace. Throughout this time, we have continued to operate and sustain our ministries through your support. For these supports we are forever grateful. Our financial obligations continue and your on-going financial support is important to sustain our Ministries and deeply appreciated.

As we approach Easter, let us reflect on this opportunity for transformation and renewal of life. Let us be strong and walk on these stormy waters and spread the Good News “to be more than I can be” for Christ has risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Stephen B. Jewczyk  
Church CSUC Council