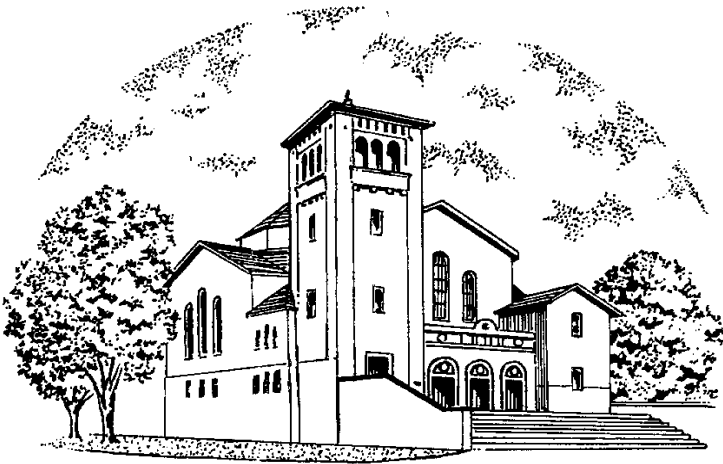


Cochrane Street United Church

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



March 6th, 2022

Minister: Rev. Miriam Bowlby, B.A. (Hons) M.Div, MBA-SEE

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

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: MV # 71: When the Wind of Winter Blows (vs. 1)

1. When the wind of winter blows,
bringing times of solitude,
fill the silent icy night;
be our hearts' compassion.

REFRAIN: Holy Light, warm our night;
warm the time of winter.
Holy Light, warm our night;
warm the time of winter.

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 MV #7: Gather Us In

Gather us in, ground us in you. **(2X)**

Gather us in, gather us in,
ground us, ground us in you.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

Jesus went into the city to heal.

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

but Jesus also went to the wilderness.

There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship Holy God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God of Sarah and Abraham, God of us all:

you have called people throughout the ages

to journey in faithfulness.

Give to us a sense of anticipation through this Lenten season,

that we may move

with confidence and hope

toward the new life of Easter.

We pray in Jesus' name,

our Companion and Guide. Amen.

HYNM VU #374: Come and Find the Quiet Centre (vs. 1–3)

- 1 Come and find the quiet centre
 in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
 find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
 clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
 be at peace, and simply be.
- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
 cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
 knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
 lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
 finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

Teach us a new way.

Teach us to live as you live.

Teach us to love as you love.

Forgive us when we don't.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Siblings in Christ,
no matter how many times we mess up,
no matter how far we wander,
no matter how lost we feel,
God's grace is full to the brim.
It overflows in desert places.
It finds us where we are and
it covers us in mercy.

Hear and believe this good news—

God's love is overflowing.

We are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God, Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY:

OFFERTORY HYMN VU #120: O Jesus I Have Promised vs. 1

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

God of the wilderness places in our lives,
it can be hard to hear you in the desert.

It can be hard to hear you in the city,
in the midst of our calendar reminders, rush-hour traffic,
and notification alerts.

It can be hard to hear you, so we ask: make everything quiet.
Pause the chaos. Still the rushing.

Ease our racing thoughts.

Give us ears to hear your Word for us today which promises that
even in the desert

you are full to the brim.

We are listening.

We ache for your good news.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1 - 13

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

SOLO:

Erin Lee

SERMON:

HYMN VU #114: Forty Days and Forty Nights (vs. 1–5)

1. Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.
2. Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about your way;
stones your pillow, earth your bed.
3. Shall not we your trial share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?
4. If temptations, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
you their vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.
5. Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side;
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Jesus has always been one to invite.

He said, “Drop your nets and follow me.”

He said, “Let the little children come.”

He said, “Stand up from your mat, you are healed.”

Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed.

So friends, you are invited to this Table.

Each and every one of us—with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions
—we are invited to God’s table.

And here we will be met. Here we will be fed.

Here we are given a taste of an expansive life
that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy.

So come.

Not because you must, but because you can. Come.

You are invited.

This Table is for you.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God who knows us, we are amazed by you.

Your love never runs out,

your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up.

We wish that we could be more like you in that way.

In a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking.

In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling.

In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating.

We long for these things.

So today we ask you—be with us on the hamster wheel.
Be with us when compassion fatigue rears her head.
Be with us when stress makes it hard to breathe.
Be with us when self-doubt pushes in close.
Be with us when exhaustion becomes constant
or when loneliness becomes our primary language.
Be with us, and show us the way to the life you long for us.

We give you thanks, O Loving God,
for sending us Jesus, your Chosen One,
Bread for our journey.
He lived and loved his human life,
taking upon himself our suffering and sorrow,
being tested as we are tested,
and reaching out to broken victims
of the world's brokenness.
In him we come to know your truth,
to feel the life that is Christ within us.

Show us a life of expansive faith.
Show us a life of overflowing joy.
Show us a life of absorbing beauty.
Show us a life of engrossing purpose.
Show us a life that is as honest, and rich, and meaningful as the one
Jesus led.

And until that expansive and holy day, we will continue to gather at
this Table.

We will continue to look for you in our midst
and raise our voices in praise singing:

Sung Response MV # 203

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of Time and space,
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings you praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.

On the night before he died,
it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread,
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
"Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant; remember me.”
Great is the mystery of faith:

Sung Response MV #203:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!

So pour out a double portion of yourself onto this bread and cup so
that we might catch a glimpse of your goodness.
God, we are amazed by you.
Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here.

This sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
we offer you, loving God,
through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.

Sung Response MV #203:

Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Together we Sing VU #959: The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever and ever.

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

The bread we break

is our sharing in the life of Christ.

The cup for which we give thanks

is our communion in the blood of Christ.

Prayer After Communion

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;
that wine poured out replenishes;
that time spent with the Risen Christ
and one another is gift and grace.
Amen**

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

HYMN VU #108: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights (vs. 1,2, 4 & 6)

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.
- 2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.
- 6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

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 #212: Sent Out in Jesus Name

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

POSTLUDE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 6: 1st Sunday of Lent
- March 12: Burry Heights Camp AGM (10am)
- March 13: St. James UC Affirming Celebration (3pm)
- March 14: National Affirming PIE Day
Gower Street UC (11am)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: If you wish to add an announcement, 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.

HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE: The UCC released a statement on Ukraine and has partnerships so that you can donate to relief in Ukraine through the Mission and Service Fund.

Here are those links:

Statement: <https://united-church.ca/news/statement-peace-ukraine>

Donate: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/conflict-ukraine>

SUNFLOWERS IN UKRAINE: The United Church of Canada have a moving prayer for the Ukraine situation entitled *Sunflowers in Ukraine: Praying for a Miracle* at <https://united-church.ca/prayers/sunflowers-ukraine-praying-miracle>

St James United Church Affirming Celebration: On Sunday, March 13, at 3 pm, St. James United Church will have their Affirming celebration making them the third Affirming congregation in Newfoundland & Labrador. The guest preacher for the celebration will be Rev. Dr. Bob K. Fillier. You can watch the celebration live stream on the St. James Youtube channel.

Everyone Gets a Slice - National Affirming PIE Day! Join Gower Street United Church to celebrate National Affirming PIE Day on March 14, 2022. We will be sharing a pie with community organizations. Our goal is to deliver 30 pies to local community groups that the Affirm Advisory Committee of Gower has identified as welcoming and inclusive. You can purchase a slice of pie for \$3.00 or an entire pie (6 slices) for \$15.00. We have 180 slices of pie to sell to fulfill our goal of 30 pies. To donate, you can send an e-transfer to gsuc@nl.rogers.com, use the donate on our website (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/42337>) or drop/mail a cash or cheque donation to 99 Queen's Road's, A1C 6M6 note on the donation that is it for PIE Day. Let's make sure everyone gets a slice! We will also welcome guest speaker Lorraine Michael to worship on March 13, 2022, as we celebrate National Affirming PIE Day in worship in person and online at 11:00am

Nominations: The United Church has launched a call for nominations (<https://united-church.ca/opportunities>) for the next Executive, the Board of Vocation and a wide range of committees. These groups will carry out the work of the General Council after the 44th General Council in August. Lay people and ministry personnel are needed with a variety of skills who hold a commitment to supporting the work of the United Church. This is a great way to connect with other members, deepen your faith, and concretely support the call and vision of this United Church of ours.

The Generosity Matters 2022 Playlist Link is now live on YouTube. These are eight stories of the amazing work our Mission & Service supports. We will feature these, and other stories, throughout the year in our efforts to engage, inspire, and give concrete examples of how our gifts make a difference. For more information visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjJACPvWES&list=PLQDu-SgFb3Ri6qP8WEABHeID1bCj4vqxB>

Understanding Antisemitism with a Critical-Thinking Lens: The Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee invites members of Communities of Faith in the regions of UCC East to this workshop. It will be conducted by Independent Jewish Voices Canada on Zoom on March 5, at 10:00am. See details here: <https://ucceast.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Fighting-Antisemitism-with-a-Critical-Thinking-Lens.pdf>. This is a learning opportunity offered as a follow-up to a proposal passed by Region 15 in September 2020 on antisemitism. Register here: <https://ucceast.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Zoom-link-to-antisemitism-workshop.pdf>.

FROM OUR PARTNERS AT GUIDE TO THE GOOD

Grow Local Go Digital - I Built My Website! I Built My Website! Kim Winsor of Johnny Ruth talks about the Johnny Ruth website. "You know me," says Kim, "I'm not teckie." But when the pandemic hit Kim and the Johnny Ruth team responded. The result is a catalogue-style Shopify website. Kim shares the highlights and heartaches of making the online presence of Johnny Ruth the mainline of her business.

Grow Local Go Digital is free, fun, and a gift from Guide to the Good to help local companies thrive online, so our communities flourish. We help make digital do-able for local companies. Click in March 9 around 10:20 am. We'll be somewhere good - hopefully downtown live at Johnny Ruth! Link:

<https://fb.me/e/1hPXQjEWf>

MEMORIALS

*In Loving Memory of Husband Bill,
From June Knight*

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

From the *Twillingate Sun* Feb 16, 1889:

"The New Year Thank offerings for the St. John's East Circuit, towards reducing the debt on Cochrane Street Church amounted to the handsome sum of twelve hundred dollars, and, it was expected, when all the offerings were received, that the total sum would not be less than sixteen hundred dollars. This speaks much for the large spirit of liberality which prevails among the Methodist friends of the Metropolis."