

# Cochrane Street United Church

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



## January 15, 2017

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## **GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

\*please stand as you are able

### **PRELUDE:**

**\*INTROIT:** God Is Here William P. Rowlands

### **\*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 # 951: Santo, Santo, Santo**

Santo, Santo, Santo! Mi corazón te adora!

Mi corazón te sabe decir: Santo eres Dios!

Holy, holy, holy! My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

All creation proclaims the greatness and love of God.

**God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.**

The light of God shines on us with new hope.

**We are called to be people of compassion and justice.**

Open our hearts, O Lord, to see your light and live in your hope.

**Prepare us for service to all your people and to this world.**

### **PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

**God of the wilderness, God of the journey**

**Soften our hearts and open our ears**

**that we might heed Wisdom's call.**

**Stir us to vision and action,**

**that we may extend your love**

**wherever there is need for hope or healing.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

### **\*HYMN # 240: Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Generous God, you give us the gift of your Spirit,**

**but we confess that we have not known how to use it.**

**You send us the Spirit of courage,**

**but we have been afraid.**

**You send us the Spirit of truth,  
but we cling to our illusions.  
You send us the Spirit of healing,  
but we cannot let go of our hurts.  
Holy Spirit of forgiveness, come to us again:  
shake our hearts,  
set our souls on fire with your love:  
send us out into the world  
rejoicing in your power.  
We ask for your help  
to live the way of your justice and love. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

In Christ, God says to us, "Arise, shine, for your light is come."  
In Christ, God says to us, "Love one another as I have loved you."  
In Christ, God says to us, "Your sins are forgiven you."  
**Thanks be to God for love and hope!**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

### **OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY**

#### **\*OFFERTORY HYMN #218 vs. 1**

We Praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we bring.

#### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#### **\*HYMN # 307: Touch the Earth Lightly**

### **GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY**

#### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

**Eternal God,  
In the reading of scripture, may your Word be heard;  
In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;  
In the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 49:1 -7**

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

#### **PSALM 40 page 764**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 1:29 - 42**

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

**ANTHEM** Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart Frederick C. Atkinson

## **SERMON:**

**\*HYMN # 289: It Only Takes a Spark**

### **GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

### **JOHN WESLEY'S COVENANT**

**History:** On Christmas Day in 1947, John Wesley wrote that he, “Urged the wholly of giving up of ourselves to God and renewing in every point our covenant with that the Lord should be our God.” Toward the end of his life it became a tradition to have a service of Covenant on New Year’s Day or the Sunday closest to the New Year. Joh Wesley writes this introduction to the service: “Dearly beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin, and through him consecrated to God. ...On one side the Covenant is God’s promise that He will fulfill in and through us all that He declared in Christ Jesus, who is the Author and Perfector of our faith. That His promise still stands we are sure, for we have known His goodness, and proved his grace in our lives day by day. On the other side we stand pledged to live no more unto ourselves, but to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, and has called us to serve Him that the purpose of His coming might be fulfilled.” (*The Handbook of the Christian Year*, 1996)

### **THE COVENANT**

And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves  
with willing bonds to our covenant God,  
and take the yoke of Christ upon us.

This taking of Christ’s yoke means  
that we are heartily content that he appoint us our place  
and work, and that he alone be our reward.

Christ has many services to be done;  
Some are easy, others are difficult;  
Some bring honour, others bring reproach;  
Some are suitable to our natural inclinations  
and temporal interests,  
others are contrary to both.

In some we may please Christ and please ourselves;

In others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.  
Yet the power to do all these things  
is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us.  
Therefore let us make the Covenant of God our own.  
Let us engage our hearts to the Lord,  
and resolve in his strength never to go back.  
Being thus prepared, let us now,  
in sincere dependence on God's grace  
and trusting in God's promises,  
yield ourselves anew to God.

*All are invited to stand.*

O Lord God, you have called us through Christ to be partakers in this  
gracious Covenant. We take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of  
obedience, and engage ourselves, for love of Christ, to seek and do your  
perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

**I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will;  
Put me to doing, put me to waiting;  
Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
Exalted for you or brought low for you;  
Let me be full, let me be empty;  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing;  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed triune God,  
you are mine, and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the Covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

**\*HYMN # 238: O Lord My God**

### **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:** God Be with You till We Meet Again W.G. Tomer

## **POSTLUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Worship:** Worship on Sundays is at St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church at 30 Aldershot Street off Merrymeeting Road.

**Bring Your Travel Mugs!** Bring your travel mug on Sundays! There is no dishwasher at St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church so we are asking everyone to bring their own mug.

**No Scents Make Good Sense!** A friendly reminder that members of our congregation are sensitive to scented products. Reactions can vary from not being able to breathe to severe headaches. Thank you for helping.

**Envelopes:** Do you need envelopes? If so please contact Harold Grandy. Email: [hgrandy@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:hgrandy@nf.sympatico.ca).

**Announcements:** If you wish to have an announcement included in the bulletin, please have it into the office by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

**Donations for 2016:** Due to circumstances beyond our control, all donations received after December 24th 2016, will be credited to your 2017 tax receipt.

**New Treasurer:** Tim Reynolds has agreed to take on the role of treasurer. Thank you Tim. Tim can be reached at: [csuctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:csuctreasurer@gmail.com).

**Recycling:** Did you know that the church has account at Evergreen Recycling on Elizabeth Avenue? Drop off your recyclables and use the church's phone number for the account number (7223023) and all the money will go to the church. Thanks for your generosity.

**Men's Club:** Men's Club will resume its meetings for the New Year on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are dinner club meetings and are presently held at St Thomas's Anglican Church with entrance at Kingsbridge Road. All men are welcome to attend and enjoy an evening of good food, great fellowship and fun. The men's club wishes a healthy and safe 2017. Any questions call church office at 709-722-3023.

### **Notes from the Archives:**

#### **For Jan 8, 2017**

Happy New Year!

How many of us remember Watch Night services at Cochrane Street? They were held on New Year's Eve at Cochrane Street at about 11:15 and were a wonderful way to welcome the New Year. Saying goodbye to the past year and greeting the coming year with confidence and hope was an affirming occasion.

#### **For Jan 15, 2017**

From the Methodist Monthly Greeting (Feb, 1891): “St. John’s East [Cochrane Street]- Thanksgiving Services – The first Sabbath in the New Year was the time appointed for receiving thanksgiving offerings, in aid of the liquidation of the debt on the East Circuit Church [Cochrane Street] property. Able and fulfilling discourses were preached by the Revs. F. R. Duffill and G. P. Story. The congregations were exceedingly large, and the financial success amounted to \$660 [at least \$14000 in today’s dollars]. The special music by the choir was all that could be desired.”

**Choir:** Love singing? Why not join the choir? No stress, no pressure, no expectations, just a group of people who love music, singing together. Some choir members read music, others don’t. All are welcome and all are equal. We rehearse 6:30pm on Tuesday nights at Gower Street United and meet at 10:00am on Sunday mornings. So make a joyful noise and join the CSUC Choir!

**PAR:** What is PAR? It stands for Pre-Authorized Remittance. It means that an amount determined by you gets deducted from your bank account each month. For more information or to sign up for PAR, please contact the church office.

**Congregational Email:** Do you want to keep up on church news? If so we can add you to the congregational email list. Please send your email to [info@cochranestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochranestreetuc.com).

## **WIDER CHURCH**

**Remits:** The United Church of Canada is looking at changing how it governs itself. When making decisions that shape the future of our denomination, every congregation is consulted and asked to vote using the remit process. This year there will be 6 remits to vote on. One of the major remits looks at changing the structure of the United Church from its current four court model to a three court mode. Our church council will be voting on these remits but you don’t need to be a member of the church council to participate. If you would like to become involved you are welcome to attend the remit study sessions held at George Street United Church February 11th and 18th 9:30 - 3:15 with a potluck lunch. Our facilitators will be Roy West and Tim Reynolds. Please email [info@cochrancestreetuc.com](mailto:info@cochrancestreetuc.com) by February 3<sup>rd</sup> if you would like to attend. The remits and background information on the remits can be found at: [www.gc42.ca/remits](http://www.gc42.ca/remits)