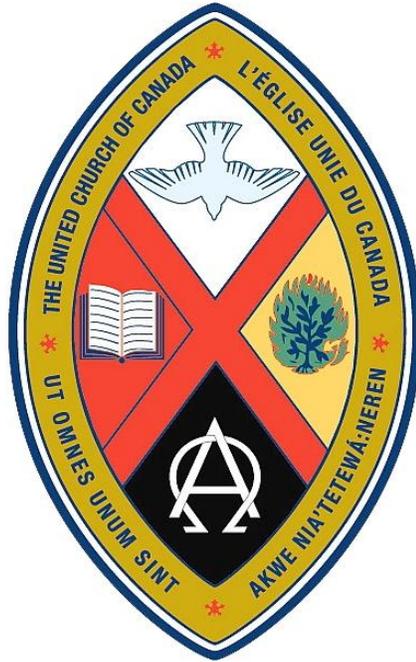


Cochrane Street United Church

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



June 11, 2017

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

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier

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GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

A special welcome to:
President of Conference, Rev. Bill Bartlett
Chair of East District, Rev. Lisa Potter
and our friends at Gower & George Street United Churches.

PRELUDE:

***INTROIT:** **And On This Path** **Linnea Good**

***WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETINGS**

***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 #381: Spirit of life

Spirit of life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

**Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand,
giving life the shape of justice.**

**Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of life come to me, come to me.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

May this be a day of hope,

of expectation,

of relishing each moment as a gift from you.

May this be a day of freedom,

of breaking free,

of loosening the chains that still surround us.

May this be a day of peace,

of wholeness,

of knowing that our lives are in your hands.

May this be a day of joy,

of blessing,

of living in your kingdom as a child of God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

**Generous God, for all that sustains us;
air to breath, warmth and light,
food to eat, water to drink,
we offer our thanks and praise.
For spiritual gifts that bind us together;
one people, one body
empowered for service
we offer our hands and voices.
For the Good News of the Gospel;
healing and wholeness
freedom and justice
we offer our hearts in service. Amen**

***HYMN # 232: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Merciful God,
you made us in your image,
with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you,
and a will to serve you.
But our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconstant,
our obedience incomplete.
Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.
In your tender love, forgive. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

**The stone is rolled away—we are released!
The tomb is empty – we can be free!
Christ is risen!
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

***HYMN # 716: My Life Flows On**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY HYMN #389: God is Here vs. 4**

**God of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the Gospel, help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

READER: George Street United Church

PSALM 8

READER: Rev. Paul Crittenden, Gower Street United Church

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:16 - 20

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

READER: Rev. Lisa Potter, Chair of East District

ANTHEM:

Morning Has Broken

arr. Evan Smith

SERMON:

Rev. Bill Bartlett

President of Newfoundland and Labrador Conference

***HYMN MV # 176: Three Things I Promise**

- 1. Three things I promise, Holy God,
in age and youth, in life and death:
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**
- 2. Your love unfolded time and space,
and life, and all that life became,
and so, with thankful heart and voice,**

through good and ill, I bless your Name.

3. I follow, serve, and cling to Christ
amid our culture's tides and trends,
for here your Name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.
4. Enlivened as the Spirit moves
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,
may seed and grow in all I do.
5. If I should live when vigor fades,
and family and friends are gone,
three acts of loving faith remain
when days are slow, and work is done.
6. Revive and guide me, Living God,
as day by day, until my death,
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN # 331: The Church's One Foundation**

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 #214: May God's Sheltering Wings

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.

**May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love**

POSTLUDE

COCHRANE STREET UNITED CHURCH The story of two construction workers 1915

During our church renovations in 2016 an interesting piece of board was found nailed to a roof truss in the ceiling space of one of the third floor Sunday School rooms facing Bannerman Street.

It had the following pencilled inscriptions:

Jos. Torontow, 23 McGee Street, Ottawa

Geo. G. McWhinney, 21 Morris Ave, Ottawa

Dec 11, 1915

Since this board was hidden, the assumption on finding these signatures was that these two men had some connection with the construction of the church. Could research support this assumption? The answer is that this is most likely to be the case.

Here are the stories of these two men:

Joseph Torontow

The Ottawa Jewish Archives website gives the story of the Torontow family. Joseph left Chasniki, Belarus and arrived in Canada in 1904. He lived in Montreal where he worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway and then in a factory. He had joined a union and when he was told that workers were needed in Ottawa he moved there. A direct quote from the archives website: "In 1916 Joseph went to Winnipeg, Halifax and Newfoundland where he worked as a tinsmith." Although the date of 1916 may be in error, there can be little doubt that this is the same Jos. Torontow who left his signature in our building. He had previously worked on the roof of the railway hotel Chateau Laurier in Ottawa making pipes. It is interesting that the same architects, Ross and Macdonald, who designed the Chateau also designed our present church building.

The remainder of Joseph's family, his siblings and parents, also immigrated to Canada and lived primarily in Ottawa. In 1916 Joseph started the Torontow Hardware Company in Ottawa and in 1922 started a tinsmith shop. He had married his wife Dora in 1905 and they had four children. He died in 1984 at the age of 98.

If you wish you can visit the Ottawa Jewish Archives website and their Community Memories Virtual Museum Project. There you can listen to a 1975 interview with Joseph Torontow about his family. There are also photographs and further information about the Torontows.

George G. McWhinney

An online search found an Ottawa marriage certificate for a George G. McWhinney of 21 Morris Avenue, Ottawa, so we know that this is the person we are looking for. George was born in Londonderry, Ireland in 1876. His parents were George G. McWhinney and Catherine Moorewood. In Ottawa, on April 12, 1916, he married Jessie Maud Heath, age 29, of St. John's. George was a widower at the time. Jessie's parents were Archibald Heath and Hannah Hunt. The most interesting note on this marriage certificate for us at Cochrane Street was that his occupation was given as a sheet metal worker. Also interesting is that he may have met his future wife while living temporarily in St. John's and working on our church building.

We know that George and Jessie had at least one child, Albert Richard, born in Ottawa. He was an air gunner sergeant in the 514 Air Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force and was killed in Germany on Feb 3, 1945 at the age of 23. George died in Ottawa in 1955 and Jessie in 1962. They are buried in Pinecrest Cemetery, Ottawa.

So that is the story of our two mysterious signatures. We know that Joseph Torontow and George McWhinney were from Ottawa and were sheet metal workers. We know that Joseph Torontow was in Newfoundland around 1915 and that George McWhinney married a woman from St. John's. So they certainly had a connection with Newfoundland.

There is not much metal in our church building so did these two men work on installing the copper on the dome? Or did they work on parts of the heating system? Did the architects have knowledge of them and their work? Were they brought to St. John's by the construction company, the Downing Cook Company? There is no documentation to support any of these suggestions; however, we can say with some certainty that they were involved in some manner during our church construction in 1915.

Linda Bowden
Cochrane Street United Church Archives
2017