

# TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

*"The Church by the Side of the Road"*

Fully accessible for people with physical disabilities

P.O. Box 13010, Station Topsail, Conception Bay South, NL, A1W 2K1

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## **"The Mission of Topsail United Church is:**

- To offer to all the opportunity to come to know God as revealed in Jesus Christ;
- To grow in faith through worship, study and prayer;
- To care for each other and all of God's creation; and
- To encourage and empower each other to use our talents within the Church."

- <b>Ministers:</b>	<b>The Congregation</b>
- <b>Clergy:</b>	<b>Rev. Bruce Kearley</b>
- <b>Congregational Designated Minister:</b>	<b>Steven Rogers</b>
- <b>Organist:</b>	<b>Beth Cranston</b>
- <b>Choir Director:</b>	<b>Andrew Cranston</b>
- <b>Choir:</b>	<b>Mixed Choir</b>
- <b>Office Manager:</b>	<b>Lynn Mercer</b>
- <b>Caretaker:</b>	<b>Roger Richards</b>

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*December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013*  
*1<sup>st</sup> of Advent*

## **SERVICE NOTE**

**WELCOME!** We begin this Season of Advent not with news of a baby to be born, but with unsettling images of the end of time as we know it. God's promise of hope comes to birth in our midst in surprising ways, bringing a peace to which all nations will be drawn. Be ready and waiting for signs of God's reign breaking into the world – that day is near.

(Ecumenical prayer calendar: Liberia, Sierra Leone.)

## **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **THE MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**INTROIT:** "Oh a Song Must Rise" (MV 142)

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive: Seasons of the Spirit)

One: Brothers and sisters, awake, awake!

**All: What time is it?**

One: The night is far gone, and the day is near!

**All: What time is it?**

One: Salvation is near! How should we live?

**All: Let us lay aside the works of war.**

One: Let us put on the armour of peace.

**All: Let us live honourably.**

One: Let us worship God!

**CONGREGATION SINGS:** (Sing twice)

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.

**WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH:** (in unison)

Our cry is one of longing, O God, for a restored relationship with you. As we enter the Season of Advent the longing is at its greatest. It can be hard to find you in our world, yet we believe you are here with us, renewing all that is broken. Come among us and, in flesh, abide with us, that we may witness your presence around us, and be filled with a new vision for your world. Amen.

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**ALL SING:** (#6 VU "A Candle is Burning" vs. 1)

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

**HYMN:** #7 "Hope is a Star"

**WE LISTEN & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Isaiah 2: 1-5 (The mountain of God can be a place of peace.)

Psalms 150 VU #874 (Praise to the Lord, hallelujah!)

Matthew 24: 36-44 (Be ready for the unexpected arrival.)

**REFLECTION:** "Come, Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord"

**ANTHEM:** "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**OFFERTORY:**

Joyful, joyful we adore you God of glory life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away,  
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**HYMN:** #242 “Let All Things Now Living”

#### The Invitation

**Confession:** (responsive)

One: God there are many things that block our path to relationship with you. Some of these obstacles are put in our way by others. When that happens, we can be angry and stubborn refusing to find another way, and we find it difficult to forgive.

**All: We turn back to you, O God, our source of forgiveness and comfort.**

One: Sometimes the obstacles in our paths are of our own making, when we choose not to live the way Jesus taught and modeled. We may choose to do things our own way, and trip ourselves up.

**All: We turn back to you, O God, our source of forgiveness and comfort.**

One: There are times when we put obstacles in the path of others; our actions or our words don't help people to see your presence in the world and in their lives.

**All: We turn back to you, O God, our source of forgiveness and comfort. (silent reflection) Amen.**

#### Words of Assurance

#### Prayers & Intercessions

#### Blessing the Bread and Cup

#### The Lord's Prayer

*(The Communion is shared)*

**HYMN:** #9 “People Look East”

#### COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** “I Am Walking A Path of Peace” (MV 221)

#### MUSICAL POSTLUDE

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

Today's bulletin has been dedicated to the glory of God and donated

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*In loving memory of*

***Philip Youden***

*by son Jim, daughter-in-law Mildred and family.*

