

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

www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net

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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."
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|--|---------------------------|
| - Ministers: | The Congregation |
| - Clergy: | Rev. Bruce Kearley |
| - Guest clergy: | Rev. Bill Williams |
| - Congregational Designated Minister: | Steven Rogers |
| - Organist: | Steven Rogers |
| - Choir: | Coastal Sounds |
| - Office Manager: | Lynn Mercer |
| - Caretaker: | Roger Richards |
| - Reader | Maggie Whiteway |
| - Lenten Candle | Phyllis Davis |
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March 10th, 2013
4th in Lent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! This is one of the greatest parables Jesus told and a much loved short story. It is a tale for every phase of our life: for our wandering youth, our staid middle age, and our softened old age as we take the part of prodigal, older sibling, and loving parent. It is a story of rebellion and of a love that puts us back together in spite of ourselves and challenges us to live generously among those we might consider family. (Ecumenical prayer calendar: Myanmar, Thailand.)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "Gather by the River to Pray"

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

One: From far-away places, from close at hand; with hearts troubled, with minds at rest, welcome your people, Holy One.

All: For we come to worship you.

One: Carrying heavy loads, travelling light; walking in fear, living in faith, Welcome your people, Holy One.

All: For we come to worship you.

One: With all that is good in our lives with all that hurts and hinders us with past and present in us and the future before us.

All: We come to worship you and find our way home.

One: Let us worship God.

GOD ACCEPTS US – A Lenten candle Liturgy
(each week a purple candle is extinguished)

CONGREGATION SINGS:

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

ANTHEM: "Gather by the River to Pray"

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (In Unison – When We Gather)

O God, in Christ you call us to dwell in your favour; we gather to praise you and worship your name. You are the rock that keeps us from falling and our redeemer. You set us upon the sure foundation of your commandments. Accept our words as we honour your judgment and be pleased with our worship as we respond to Christ's call. Amen.

HYMN: #395 "Come In and Sit Down"

TALK TIME:

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 (The prodigal son; the prodigal father.)

SERMON: "Story Telling"

CHOIR SELECTION: "Spirit Open my Heart"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
And some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
Be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (unison - Seasons of the Spirit)

As the prodigal made for home we turn back to you. As the parent celebrated his return we rejoice with all who love you. We are not worthy to receive all that we have, and what we offer is a simple token of all that you have given. So receive us and our offerings as we come with grateful hearts into the love of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER:

HYMN: #333 "Love Divine ..."

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHOIR SELECTION: "I Hear Music in Me"

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

BULLETIN DEDICATION

**Today's bulletin is dedicated to the Glory of God and
donated in**

*In loving memory of
a dear Grandson, Nephew & Cousin
Donald Paul King (Donnie)
November 11, 1970 - March 8, 2011
Forever in our hearts
and always loved
From Grandmother Ruby Mercer & family*

*In loving memory of my Dad
Donald Paul King (Donnie)
November 11, 1970 - March 8, 2011
Always loved and sadly missed
by son Donald James King (DJ)*