

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

Office Telephone: 834-4567, Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9-1 Fax: 834-6200

"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."

Ministers:

Clergy:

Congregational Designated Minister:

Organist:

Choir:

Office Manager:

Caretaker:

Reader:

Servers:

The Congregation

Rev. Bruce Kearley

Steven Rogers

Nadine Hollett

Senior Choir

Lynn Mercer

Roger Richards

Sarah Budgell

Rosalind Foley & Doreen Cave

Sunday, March 3rd, 2013

3rd in Lent/ Sacrament of Holy Communion

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME - Hunger and plenty, thirst and flowing water, seeking and finding, or seeking and choosing the wrong things are the contrasts running through these passages for today. With so many choices set before us it is easy to pick the fruit that dazzles rather than that which fills and satisfies; but even in our confusion in the marketplace of choice God is patient, enduring, faithful and holds out to us the things that lead to life.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "Kyrie Eleison"

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

One: Where the bright water flows, where the table is set,
where the wine runs free, where the bread is shared:

All: we find God in the midst of plenty.

One: Where the thirsty are satisfied, where the hungry are fed,
where the lost are invited, where the poor are welcome:

All: we find God in the midst of plenty.

One: Where the love is strong, where the faith is deep,
where the prayer is heard, where the soul is nourished:
All: we find God in the midst of plenty.
One: Come, 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:

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (unison – When We Gather)

Gracious God, you have set the heavens above us as a sign of your splendor; you water the earth and cause it to bloom. With Christ as the vine and we the branches, our lives can reflect the radiance of your love and glory. We gather to worship, praise, and adore you. Amen.

HYMN: #240 “Praise My Soul ...”

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT WITH OFFICIAL BOARD
- Board Members -

Paul Burt	Denise Jacobs
Doreen Cave	David Jones
Boyde Clarke	Mitchell Moran
Brad Cole	Judy Powell
Solomon Davis	James Rowsell
Rosalind Foley	Wanda Saunders
Valerie Howe	Bond Swain

SCRIPTURE

MINISTER:

Let us hear the message of scripture. There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. Christ is like a single body which has many parts. If one part of the body suffers, all other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

MINISTER: We celebrate with joy and gratitude that you have been called by God, and chosen by the people of **TOPSAIL PASTORAL CHARGE** for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing, an honour, and a responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us, with us, and on our behalf. We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God, and to all God's people.

COVENANT QUESTIONS AND PROMISES

MINISTER: As you come to assume the duties of your office, let us make a covenant before God and with one another. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, will you continue to live out your faith with praise and thanksgiving? Will you carry out your responsibilities in this congregation with integrity and joy?

MEMBERS: I will, God being my helper.

MINISTER: Will the congregation please stand. Will you, the congregation of Topsail United Church honour the leadership of these people? Will you assist them through daily prayer, generous support, and personal example, so that, together, we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE: We will, God being our helper.

PRAYER: (in unison)

Loving God, you have called these people to serve you. Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all that we may keep the promises we have made today. Help them to fulfill their responsibilities. May their leadership help us all to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.

DECLARATION:

In the name of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we recognize and affirm you in your ministry as the Official Board of Topsail United Church.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 55: 1-9 (Come, buy wine and milk without money!)

Luke 13: 6-9 (The parable of the barren fig tree.)

REFLECTION: "Enduring Love"

ANTHEM: "Bread of Life, Feed My Soul"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

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:

HYMN: #376 "Spirit of the Living God"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING PRAYER:

THE INVITATION:

CONFESSION:

God, sometimes we wander into far countries of the soul without ever thinking where we are going.

We take your love for granted; we presume that we can always find our way back to you when we really need you, when it's more convenient. And then, we find ourselves in places where we do not want to be and we wonder how we got there. Lonely and afraid, we do not know where to turn. (*Silence*)

Speak to us, God, of mercy and forgiveness. Stir up within us a longing to be with you again. Help us find the way to the place where we have always belonged. We pray in the name of Jesus in whom you have come out to meet us. Amen.

(Written by *Wendy MacLean*, Vision and Transformation Ministry, Montreal Presbytery, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2013, page 29. Used with permission.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

(The Bread is broken & The Cup is lifted)
(Communion is shared)

HYMN: #658 "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Kyrie Eleison"

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

BULLETIN DEDICATION

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

*In Celebration & Thanksgiving for
Reverend Bruce
who celebrated his 60th Birthday
Yesterday*