

## TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

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

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

[www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](http://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."

- <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>
- <b>Reader:</b>	<b>Genevieve Phillips</b>
- <b>Communion Servers:</b>	<b>Linda Squires</b>
-	<b>Derrick Tuffin</b>

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*December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent/Communion*

### **SERVICE NOTE**

**WELCOME!** The statement "Comfort, O comfort my people" stands among the most poignant of all sayings of Isaiah. The admonition comes from the centre of Loving-Kindness, a presence who knows what we have gone through, who has witnessed our failures and yet speaks kindly to us.

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

#### **THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:**

**INTROIT:** "Peace Shines as the Solitary Star" (#220MV)

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES:** (Madeline & Marvin Parsons)

1<sup>st</sup> Reader: People of God, come, for the light of peace beckons us together.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader: In the wilderness a word of comfort is spoken to us, inviting us to follow in God's way.

1<sup>st</sup> Reader: Come, people of God, let us follow this new light – let us listen to the voice crying out for our attention; calling us to participate in the journey of this Advent season.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader: How shall we follow, when the path is bumpy? How shall we respond, when the voice is not clear? How shall we participate when the rough places of our lives challenge and divert us each day? How can we be the people God has called us to be?

1<sup>st</sup> Reader: The lights of hope and peace are lit in our midst. God will use these lights to show us the way.

**(Candles of Hope & Peace are Lit)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader: In our worship, let us become the lights of hope and peace, believing that through our love, God can use us, to show the way.

1<sup>st</sup> Reader: Come, let us worship.

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** (in unison)

From the wilderness of our world, we come to worship. From the aloneness of our solitary lives, we gather now as one people. From the challenges and winding roads of our ever-changing, ever-more-complex world, we come to the peace and calm of this sanctuary. We come with intention and we bring our deep longings. And we seek, O God, your guiding spirit as we gather. The candles of hope and peace have led us here, and we gather around them. Strengthen our lights. Embolden our spirits. Kindle your light in our lives today, we pray. Amen.

**HYMN: #5** "All Earth Is Waiting"

**WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (Comfort, comfort, my people.)

Mark 1: 1-8 (The preaching of John the baptizer.)

**SERMON:** "Comfort My People Says God"

**HYMN: #28** "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness"

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**OFFERTORY: VU #540)**

Grant Us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living, we may offer faithfully.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

Loving God, we offer our resources, our time, and our talents to the work of love, righteousness, peace, and justice. May these offerings be blessed by you, O God, for your work in the world. Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**AHTHEM:** "Gloria, Gloria, Gloria Deo"

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

**CONFESSION:** (in unison)

I am just one voice. We confess we have believed this. Even as we sing and explore and discern your spirit together, we have imagined and believed we are each just one and therefore cannot offer much to the ways of hope and peace in this world. We have not always carried our lights high. We have not always reached out to embrace the ways of righteousness and peace! We have seen the winding paths of the need for change in our world, and in discouragement and grief, have entertained the possibility of giving up on our ability to help. Help us to cry out for justice and healing. Help us to

claim our power to be the change we want to see in the world! Forgive us and help us to proclaim: We are not alone! We can be your way of hope and peace!

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS**

**BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** (sung)

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

**HYMN:** #29 "Hark the Glad Sound"

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** "I Am Walking a path of Peace" (221MV)

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE:**



**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

*In loving memory of  
**Philip Youden**  
by Jim, Mildred & family*

*In loving memory of  
husband & father  
**Arthur Reid**  
who passed away December 7th, 2009  
by wife Elsie & family*

*In loving memory of*  
*parents*  
**Herbert & Dora Tuffin**  
**&**  
**William and Alice Cleary**  
*by Derrick & Linda*  
*A gift has been received for Hymn Sing.*

*In loving memory of*  
**Augustus (Gus) Eveleigh**  
*by wife Georgina, daughter Rosalind & family*

*To the Glory of God*  
*and donated with many special memories of*  
**Benjamin**  
*born Dec. 1980,*  
*by Barbara*

*In loving memory of*  
**Ben Roper**  
*from Doreen, Ken & Family*

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