

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
December 24th, 2014
Christmas Eve - 8:00 p.m.

SERVICE NOTE

Come close to the stable; see a mother rocking her baby. Come close to the stable; see shepherds hurrying in from the fields. Come close to the stable; know that the love of God enfolds this place.

WELCOME & BLESSINGS
ON THIS NIGHT OF LIGHT AND JOY!

ORGAN PRELUDE:

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #60 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: How beautiful, how wonderful, is the coming of God's messenger, the one who announces peace.

All: And we cry, "Peace on earth, good will to all people!"

One: The one who brings good news

All: of a great joy for all people.

One: The one who announces salvation,

All: and we declare his name will be Jesus, meaning "God saves," Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

One: The one who says to God's people, "Your God reigns

All: with righteousness and equity."

One: Praise to the one whose coming we celebrate today and who signals the day of God's reign.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CONGREGATION SINGS:

*We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.*

*O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.*

CAROL: #36 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (in unison – Seasons of the Spirit)

We sing of our joy, dear God, and our gratitude for your gifts to us:
Hope, peace, joy and love, and most of all, Christ, light and life for all.

We thank you and praise you with all of our hearts, our minds, the depth of our being. Amen.

CAROL: #75 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2: 1 - 20 (The Christmas Story)

ANTHEM: "Where Is The Room?"

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER:

OFFERING & DEDICATION:

From all that dwells below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise;
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison - Seasons of the Spirit)

God who gives us the greatest gift of all, your very self, may we give our very selves to you and to each other. We thank you for all we have, and for the opportunity to share with each other, and those less fortunate. Gracious God, may these gifts help us all to see Christ in each other, a light of love and compassion. Amen.

SOLO:

SERMON: "Angels Bending Near The Earth"

ANTHEM: "Gloria Gloria Gloria, Deo"

CAROL: #67 "Silent night" (lights are dimmed)

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH:

CHRISTMAS VESPERS:

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

ORGAN POSTLUDE: