

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

"The Church by the Side of the Road"

December 24th, 2014, 6:00pm

MUSICAL PRELUDE:

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: In places of darkness and in places of light

All: There we will find the Christ child

One: In places of war and places of peace

All: There we will find the Christ Child

One: In places of sorrow and places of joy

All: There we will find the Christ child

One: In places of hate and places of love

All: There we will find the Christ child

One: We find the Christ child in all places, for where two or more are gathered in God's name

All: There we will find the Christ child

One: Come, follow me...but quietly!

All: Where are we going?

One: Out back – to the stable

All: To the stable?

One: Yes...there is something you just have to see!

All: What?

One: A baby

All: A baby?

One: Come and see the babe in a manger of whom the prophets foretold, of whom the angels sang! Come, to this holy place in this holy night. Come and see!

CAROL: #69 "Away in a Manger"

A CHRISTMAS EVE WELCOME

DELIVERY OF HAY

SOLOIST: "Bell Carol" (Jillian Moran)

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

CONGREGATION SINGS:

Light the Christmas Candles now, sing of donkey, sheep and cow,
Birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring
Filled with wonder at the sight, of the child on Christmas night.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the winter night,
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the winter night.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2: 1-20

CAROL: #60 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

OFFERING: "Little Drummer Boy" (Rhythm Band)

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (responsive)

One: It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.

All: But that did not stop the birth.

One: They were poor and had no place fitting for their child.

All: But that did not stop the birth.

One: They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.

All: But that did not stop the birth.

One: Today we are still sometimes cold and fearful, certainly poor in many ways.

All: We often feel we have no place and are unclear about what God wants of us.

One: But these things did not stop the birth of Jesus then, nor will they now.

All: Lord Jesus be born in us today.

One: Like Mary and Joseph, who trusted in your grace, we offer ourselves and our gifts to you. Bless our offering and hallow our every thought and our every action, that the light of Christ may be revealed through them to the world. **Amen**

MUSICAL REFLECTION: "The Gift"

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

One: ...God of stable, stars, and shepherds,

All: Let your light shine.

CAROL: "This Little Light of Mine"

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

Like the star of Bethlehem, I'm gonna let it shine...

When that Christmas morning comes, I'm gonna let it shine...

CAROL: #43 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

One: We go out from here filled with hope, rejoicing in the birth
of your son Jesus

All: Surrounded by your light

One: We go out from here filled with peace knowing that wrongs
can be righted

All: By the power of your light

One: We go out from here filled with joy to hasten as the
shepherd did

All: Following your light

One: We go out from here filled with love, in thankfulness and
praise

All: For Jesus is our light

MUSICAL POSTLUDE: