

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

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:	The Congregation
○ Clergy:	Rev. Bruce Kearley
○ Congregational Designated Minister:	Steven Rogers
○ Organist:	Beth Cranston
○ Choir Director:	Andrew Cranston
○ Choir:	Mixed Choir
○ Office Manager:	Lynn Mercer
○ Caretaker:	Roger Richards

March 30th, 2014
4th in Lent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! How can we describe God, who is so far beyond human understanding? The psalmist uses the metaphor of shepherd, one who guards and cares for the flock. Even when we are uncertain and afraid, we trust that God is with us to nurture and restore. God's restorative love is shown in Jesus, who brings sight to one born blind and calls all to new ways of living and seeing.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "To the Desert, Jesus Came" (VU113 – v2)

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

One: Welcome to this time of worship!

All: God's goodness and mercy have followed us day by day.

One: Welcome to this time of worship!

All: Christ's light shines ahead of us, showing us the right direction.

One: Welcome to this time of worship!

All: The Spirit of God is here, knowing our hearts and loving us.

One: Let us worship God!

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:

OPENING PRAYER: (in unison – Seasons of the Spirit)

God of Jesus, who shared our humanity, keep us company on this Lenten journey so that we may find the path to life. Amen.

HYMN: #333 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

TALK TIME:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison – "When We Gather")

God of darkness and light, we confess that: we have sometimes ignored the insights we should have heeded, or used our perspective for selfish gains; we have tried to force growth when we should have respected the darkness, or chosen to stay in a comfortable place when we could have exposed our lives to the gentle scrutiny of your love. We own that sometimes life has seemed like a deep ravine and we could not find your presence near us. We seek assurance of your goodness and mercy, wherever we may be on life's journey.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 23 (#749 – VU – The Lord is my Shepherd.)

John 9: 1-12 (A man born blind receives sight.)

ANTHEM: "Lenten Carol" (Carolyn Schwartz)

SERMON:

HYMN: #389 "God Is Here"

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: (in unison – Seasons of the Spirit)

God, You generously supply all we need; goodness and grace follow us every day. In response to God's love, we share with others. The light of Christ has shined in our lives: bless with light and love all those who receive these gifts, we pray in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER:

HYMN: #371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Behold, Behold I make All Things New"

(MV115)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of my dear husband

Hubert Stokes

by wife Olive.

In loving memory of a wonderful Father and Grandfather

Hubert Stokes

Forever loved and missed

by daughter Ruth, granddaughter Geri & Family