

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

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"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:	Male Choir
Office Manager:	Lynn Mercer
Caretaker:	Roger Richards

March 9th, 2014
1st in Lent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Lent is a time of journeying – with Jesus towards Jerusalem but also deep within ourselves – to test and strengthen our faith. The journey may bring experiences that stretch and challenge, or times that frustrate and make us stumble. There always choices to be made.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

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

One: Celebrate God today.

All: **Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.**

One: Celebrate God today.

All: **We are glad in God and rejoice together.**

One: Celebrate God today.

All: **God gives us a new start and shows us the way to go.**

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 – Season 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: 115 "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

TALK TIME:

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

Creating God, the universe is a vast and awesome place; our world is full of wonder, and beauty can be found in fertile valleys and desert spaces.

We reflect on the story of our human journey: unlike the Garden of Eden described in scripture, we do not live together in harmony; the natural world is constantly changing and we are concerned about choices that bring destruction.

We have inherited a humanity that knows hunger, broken relationships, and death. We own our share in the making of wrong decisions and their consequences; Today we are led by the Spirit with Jesus into the wilderness. Help us to find a path through the desert places, to fullness of life for all. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 32 (#759 – Joy of forgiveness.)

Matthew 4: 1-11 (The Temptation of Jesus.)

ANTHEM: "Near The Cross"

SERMON: "Abundant Grace"

HYMN: 559 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

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)

Generous God, we bring these gifts and choose life for others as well as for ourselves. Bless these gifts to restore hope and renew trust in your love we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER:

HYMN: 356 "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Deep in Our Hearts"

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of
Frederick Wicks
by Foxtrap Lodge # 181 & # 966

In loving memory of
June Sturge
by Admirals Coast Retirement Centre Inc.

In loving memory of
June Sturge
by Art & Mary Chafe

In loving memory of
Richard Barnes
by wife Olga & family

In loving memory of
my two Sisters
Joyce Scott (Barnes) of Grand Falls, Nov. 25, 2013
&
Camie Collins (Barnes) of St. John's, Dec 15, 2013
by Sister Olga Barnes

In loving memory of
June Sturge
Terry & Debbie Lynch
&
William Bishop

A donation has been received from the
Men's Club
In Loving memory of
Heber Bennett

In loving memory of my wonderful Dad
Donald Paul King (Donnie)
November 11, 1970 - March 8, 2011
Always loved and in my Heart forever
by son Donald James King (DJ)

In loving memory of
a dear Grandson, Nephew & Cousin
Donald Paul King (Donnie)
November 11, 1970 - March 8, 2011
Forever loved and sadly missed
by Grandmother Ruby Mercer, aunts & uncles & their families