

## 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

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

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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."

- <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>Wanda Saunders</b>

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***May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014***

***3<sup>rd</sup> of Easter/Season of Creation – Atmosphere/Hydrosphere***

### **SERVICE NOTE**

***WELCOME!*** We worship this Sunday with the skies. We celebrate with the clouds, the winds, the dusk and the dawn. We listen to the sounds of sky proclaiming God's presence. We stand in awe before the vast reaches of space above us and thank God for the fragile piece of stardust we call Earth.

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

### **THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:**

**INTROIT:** "Creator God, You Gave Us Life"

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive)

One: We invite the skies to worship with us:

**All: the subtle orange skies at dawn and the bold red skies at sunset.**

One: We join the heavens in praising God:

**All: proclaiming God's glory across the globe and hailing God's name with the evening stars.**

One: We join with the atmosphere in worship:

**All: the air, the moisture, the oxygen, the wind and all the expressions of God's Spirit.**

One: We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:

**All: to carry the life giving drops of rain, that give hope and healing to Earth.**

One: We invite the winds to join our petitions:

**All: to carry our prayers to God above and breathe our hopes to Christ in person.**

One: We celebrate the song of the skies!

**All: Sing! Skies! Sing!**

One: Let us worship God!

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** (in unison)

God, our Creator, as we look into the skies we celebrate the wonders of the world that surround us. Help us to see your presence in the evening sky, your spirit in the wind, your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God in Earth. Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. Amen.

**HYMN:** #678 "For the Healing of the Nations"

# CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT WITH OFFICIAL BOARD

## - Board Members –

Freeman Budgell	Denise Jacobs
Dale Butt	David Jones
Doreen Cave	Glenys Moran
Boyde Clarke	James Rowsell
Brad Cole	Wanda Saunders
Solomon Davis	Bond Swain
Valerie Howe	

## SCRIPTURE

### MINISTER:

Let us hear the message of scripture. There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. Christ is like a single body which has many parts. If one part of the body suffers, all other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12)

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**MINISTER:** We celebrate with joy and gratitude that you have been called by God, and chosen by the people of ***TOPSAIL PASTORAL CHARGE*** for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing, an honour, and a responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us, with us, and on our behalf. We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God, and to all God's people.

## COVENANT QUESTIONS AND PROMISES

**MINISTER:** As you come to assume the duties of your office, let us make a covenant before God and with one another. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, will you continue to live out your faith with praise and thanksgiving? Will you carry out your responsibilities in this congregation with integrity and joy?

**MEMBERS: I will, God being my helper.**

**MINISTER:** Will the congregation please stand. Will you, the congregation of Topsail United Church honour the leadership of these people? Will you assist them through daily prayer, generous support, and personal example, so that, together, we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ?

**PEOPLE: We will, God being our helper.**

**PRAYER: (in unison)**

Loving God, you have called these people to serve you. Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all that we may keep the promises we have made today. Help them to fulfill their responsibilities. May their leadership help us all to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.

**DECLARATION:**

In the name of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we recognize and affirm you in your ministry as the Official Board of Topsail United Church.

**WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Jeremiah 4: 23-28 (When the heavens mourn.)

Psalms 19: (#740 – VU 'Good News from sky')

Mark 15: 33-39 ('Three hours of darkness')

**SERMON: "Touch the Face of God"**

**ANTHEM: "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**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)

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. With all creation, we bless our Creator.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**HYMN:** "Song of Sky" (Printed pg. 10 in Bulletin)

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky. Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation. Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the stars, the rains and the light. Christ, teach us to care. Amen

**CONFESSION:** (in unison)

Gracious God, forgive our neglect of what you have entrusted to us as stewards. We confess that we often take your gift of the surrounding sky for granted and turned it into a new domain to be conquered rather than a presence to protect us. We acknowledge the need for repentance and beyond repentance the need for action to preserve the life giving force of the atmosphere. In our repentance, oh God empower us to speak for those without, and work to ensure justice and peace for all. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS**

**BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

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

**HYMN:** #642 "Be Thou My Vision"

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** "Deep in Our Hearts"

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE:**

(Worship Resources taken from Season of Creation & Seasons of the Spirit)



**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

*In Loving Memory of  
a Beloved Mother, Mother In Law and Grand Mother  
**Florence Bennett**  
from Bob, Debbie, Sheri, Gregory.*

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## SONG OF SKY

(Tune: Glorious things of Thee are spoken)

1. Lord of suns and star exploding  
Galaxies and swirling skies,  
Where you chose to show your glory  
Took the heavens by surprise.  
Lord of solar winds and wisdom,  
Super stars that blow our mind,  
Choosing such a fragile planet  
Hardly seems a grand design.
2. On this piece of stardust swirling,  
On this spinning spot in space,  
Life itself was born like music,  
When you showed your hidden face.  
What an honour to be chosen,  
Silent planet blue and green,  
Filled with glory, grace and gardens,  
Where the breath of God is seen.
3. What is even more amazing  
We have poisoned Earth like fools.  
Help us change our way of living,  
Love the Earth and love her rules.  
Help us stem the tide of traders  
Leaving Earth an empty store;  
Join us now Creator Spirit,  
Come renew your Earth once more.