

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
December 24th, 2015
Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m.

INTROIT: "A Christmas Truth"



CALL TO WORSHIP: Ashtyn Wells

One: Like the shepherds

All: We come to the stable.

One: Like the angels

All: We sing our praises to God.

One: Like the Wise men

All: We offer what we have and who we are.

One: As children of God

All: We come to celebrate the holy birth.

CONGREGATION SINGS: #44 It Came upon a Midnight Clear
(Verse 1)

PRAYER OF APPROACH: Alex Pelley

Welcome to the sounds of Christmas!

The excited voices of children,
the rustle of new Christmas outfits,
the chatter of families united.

Welcome to the sounds of Christmas!

Songs and words raised in praise
for a tiny family with the gift of a child
wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Karen Boivin, The Gathering 2011-2012)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

THE CHRISTMAS STORY (Rev. Bruce)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: Emma Butler

Gracious God,

Watch over us during this busy season while we are gathering with family, renewing friendships, singing Christmas carols, and listening to sleigh bells jingling. With the smells of sugar cookies and evergreen trees filling the air, do not let our hearts and minds stray from the real meaning of Christmas - the birth of Jesus on that starry night in Bethlehem. (Alissa De Trude, Blessing New Voices)

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

CHOIR PRESENTATION

"Come to Bethlehem"

OFFERTORY:

Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.
It's just like a magic penny, hold it tight and you won't have any
Lend it , spend it and you'll have so many, they'll roll all over the floor.
Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Rachael Moore

Dear God,
Help me remember the promise,
the story we hold dear.
The baby was born in Bethlehem,
to lie in a manger mere.
The magi came bearing gifts,
And angels began to sing.
I celebrate your day of birth
And it's myself I bring. (Gabriele Sarah Chase, Blessing New Voices)

BENEDICTION:

Go now into Christmas,
May the Bethlehem star guide you on your way
this evening and forevermore.

CONGREGATION SINGS: #67 "Silent Night"

*Lights dimmed, Children's Choir sing verse 1
Congregation join us for verses 2 and 3*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

