

## TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

*"The Church by the Side of the Road"*

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."

- <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>Combined Choir</b>
- <b>Office Manager:</b>	<b>Lynn Mercer</b>
- <b>Caretaker:</b>	<b>Roger Richards</b>
- <b>Reader:</b>	<b>Barbara Brown</b>
- <b>Servers:</b>	<b>Pat Jones &amp; Sarah Budgell</b>

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***March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015***

***2<sup>nd</sup> in Lent /Communion***

### **SERVICE NOTE**

**WELCOME:** The readings for the second Sunday in Lent focus on another covenant: the promise made to Abram and to Sarai. Again, we are reminded that such promises of faithful relationship are initiated by God, not based on merit or worth, with the purpose of bringing blessing to all the earth.

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

#### **THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:**

**INTROIT:** "To The Desert Jesus Came" (VU113 – vs. 2)

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive)

One: People of God, we gather again: in this sacred space, in this sacred moment.

**All: Just for a time leave daily concerns aside, for here we recall the stories of faith,**

One: here we see God moving amongst us, here we are known by name,

**All: here we remember whose we are.**

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)

And so, God, here we are, ready to see you walking amongst us, ready to hear you calling our names and to acknowledge our true nature, seeking the assurance of that long ago promise, that you will abide with us for all our days, and be a loving presence to all your children for time eternal. Amen.

**HYMN:** #634 "To Abraham and Sarah"

#### **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

##### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 (The covenant between Abram, Sarai, and God.)

Psalms 22 (VU746 – Parts 3 & 4 – You have not hidden your face, O God.)

Mark 8: 31-38 (Those who lose their life for the gospel will save it.)

**SERMON:** "Ready To Follow"

**HYMN:** #561 "Take Up Your Cross"

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Doreen Cave

**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)

Just as you are the God who knows us by name, so are you the God who knows all those in need by name. May these, our gifts, be a beacon of light to those in need. Amen!

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**AHTHEM:** "Bread of Life, Feed my Soul" (MV194)

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

**CONFESSION:** (in unison)

God, you call us into the marketplace and into the wilderness too, but sometimes we are too frightened to go into desert places. What if there is nothing, absolutely nothing, there? Or worse, we fear the nudging and urgings of the Holy Spirit that might call us to alter our lives. The status quo seems easier. It's what we are used to. And then when temptation comes, we have no resistance. Forgive us, God. Help us to set foot in the desert, to embrace emptiness and silence. Help us trust that we will be filled. (a moment of silence is kept) Amen!

(Written by *Sheryl Spencer*, Mount Forest P.C., Mount Forest, Ont. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter, 2015, page 32. Used with permission.)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS**

**BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** (sung #959)

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

**HYMN:** #660 "How Firm A Foundation"

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** "Body, Mind and Spirit" (MV153 vs. 1)

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE:**



**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

*In loving memory of*  
**Valda Berkshire (Chaytor)**  
*by Con Ba Su Area Girl Guides*

*In loving memory of*  
**Valda Berkshire**  
*by Queen Victoria Lodge*  
*No. 218 L.O.B.A.*

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