



TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
December 24th, 2016
Christmas Eve - 6:00 p.m.



THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

CALL TO WORSHIP: (read responsively)

One: Let us journey with Mary and Joseph to that little town of Bethlehem, to once again experience the birth of the Christ child.

All: Let us, like the angels, proclaim this miraculous birth.

One: Let us, like the shepherds, offer our praise and adoration.

All: Let us bow down and worship Him!

CAROL: #91 *The First Noel* (v.1,2,4)

A CHRISTMAS EVE WELCOME

CANDLE OF HOPE

CAROL: # 44 *It Came upon A Midnight Clear* (v.1,2,4)

CANDLE OF PEACE

PRAYER:

God of mystery, tonight we celebrate that you were born among us long ago in a stable in Bethlehem. We pray that you will be born in us tonight. Holy God, you promised to send a Saviour to your people. Grant us the grace to trust your promise of peace and to turn from activities that obstruct its fulfillment. Grant us wisdom, so that during this season, we may not only give presents but also be present to one another. We pray that when we socialize with friends that we will also welcome strangers in our midst. Open our hearts to receive your hope, peace, joy and love. Amen

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2: 1-20

MUSICAL PRESENTATION: *When a Child is Born*

Courage Choir & Inspiration Band Lyrics By Fred Jay's *When a Child Is Born* (adapted)

CANDLE OF JOY

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION: *Christmas Beauty*

CANDLE OF LOVE

CAROL: #67 *Silent Night*

OFFERING: congregation sings

What can I give Him poor as I am
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what I can, I give Him
Give Him my heart

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Many gifts are shared this evening. Some hidden under trees, others tucked in socks and stockings. Receive all the gifts that are shared this night from our treasury. Bless gifts and givers. Bless the act of giving in your most Holy name. Amen

Lighting of the Christ Candle

CAROL: #43 *Go tell it on the Mountain*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION (read responsively)

One: Let the hope that was born in a stable this night, be a sign that God can change the world through one small light.

All: **May the God of all touch us once again with wonder.**

One: May the spirit of peace be upon everyone, everywhere.

The grace of Christ be with you, today and forevermore! Amen

(Parts of the service are adapted from materials found on Adventunwrapped.ca & in *gathering, Resources for worship planners*)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:



PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd. We will reopen January 3rd

The Deadline for 2016 contributions is January 6th, 2017.