

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

"The Church by the Side of the Road"

P.O. Box 13010, Station Topsail, Conception Bay South, NL, A1W 2K1

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."

- **Ministers:** **The Congregation**
- **Clergy:** **Rev. Bruce Kearley**
- **Congregational Designated Minister:** **Heather Cronhelm**
- **Organist:** **Beth Cranston**
- **Choir Director:** **Andrew Cranston**
- **Choir:** **Mixed Choir**
- **Office Manager:** **Jacqueline Kennedy**
- **Caretaker:** **Roger Richards**

December 4th, 2016

2nd of Advent/Sacrament of Holy Communion

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! You love us, O God. Open our hearts to face, with courage, a broken world in need of healing and justice. Our fragility reminds us that we need you, and we need each other. Help us tune into the best parts of ourselves and our child-like qualities, as you accompany us to surrender to your deep vision of peace. Amen.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (vU10)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: We are all welcome to this place. Just as you are, whatever hopes or worries are on your mind, you are welcome.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.

One: Young or old, tall or small, we are all part of God's vision.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.

One: Let us welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.

CONGREGATION SINGS:

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: Last Sunday we lit the first Advent candle, the candle of hope. Today, we light the second candle, the candle for peace, and remember that God lights our path.

All: We wait in hope & peace.

One: Through the prophets, God tells us about a child who will lead the way into peace.

All: We wait in hope & peace.

One: We remember John the baptizer as a voice crying out in the wilderness to “prepare the way of the Lord!” And so we prepare our hearts and minds as we wait for the blessed gift of Christ’s birth.

All: We wait in hope & peace.

CANDLES ARE LIT

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

HYMN: #20 “On Jordan’s Bank”

DEDICATION OF COMMUNION TABLE CANDLE HOLDERS

Minister: Let us pray. Giver of all good gifts, it is by your power that all things are made holy. We give you thanks for your marvelous wonders, and for the work of human hands. Be with us now as we receive this memorial gift that comes from you. We ask for your blessing and return it to your service. May your face shine upon what we do here this day, that all might draw nearer to you and praise you. Amen.

Presentation of Gift

(Barbara Brown)

Chair of Worship & Sacraments Committee (Doreen Cave):

With gratitude, we accept this gift. We will care for it, and we will use it reverently.

Words of Dedication

(Minister & Congregation)

Minister: In the name of the holy and triune God: Father, Son & Holy spirit,

All: we dedicate this gift to the glory of God.

Minister: With gratitude and reverence.

All: we dedicate this gift to the glory of God.

Minister: For the beauty of this holy place and for the sake of all God's people,

All: we dedicate this gift to the glory of God.

Minister: In remembrance of *Benjamin Llewellyn*,

All: we dedicate this gift to the glory of God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Minister & Congregation)

Minister: Let us pray. Creator God, source of all inspiration and beauty, we thank you for the gift of these Candle Holders now dedicated to the glory of your name.

All: May your Holy spirit guide us in reverent and loving use of all things, remembering always your great gift to us, Jesus Christ, your son, our Saviour. Amen

WE LISTEN & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Matthew 3: 1-12

SERMON: "Vision of Peace"

HYMN: #5 "All Earth is Waiting"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM: "Before I Take the Body of My Lord" VU #462

GATHERING PRAYER:

CONFESSION:

Holy One, there are times when we are filled with despair, boredom, apathy, and not hope. We get tired and protect ourselves from hoping, afraid that we might get hurt or disappointed. We ask your forgiveness when we create walls around our selves, when we hurt ourselves, others, and your planet. You know that sometimes we can be mean and sometimes too passive. Sometimes we see only our differences, and do not take the time to listen and understand one another. Though we may strive for balance, we often fail to be as open-hearted and welcoming of one another. Holy One, we humbly expose our shortcomings to the immensity of your wisdom and love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS**BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (sung #959)

(Communion is shared)

HYMN: #7 "Hope is a Star"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "I am Walking a Path of Peace" (MV221)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In Loving Memory of father
Ben Roper
from Doreen Cave