

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:	Male Choir
- Office Manager:	Jacqueline Kennedy
- Caretaker:	Roger Richards

December 11th, 2016

3rd of Advent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Mary is chosen by God for the special task of being Jesus' mother. Mary is young, she has no status or power in her society, she is an unlikely person for such an important task. Mary's prophetic song radiates love and celebrates God's transformative vision of justice that challenges the powerful and lifts up the weak.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "Light A Candle" (v.3 – Written by Terry Macham, Advent 2016, page 56. Used with Permission)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: Holy one, you created the heavens and Earth and all that is.

All: Happy are those whose help is in God.

One: You bring justice for the oppressed, food to the hungry and set the prisoners free.

All: Happy are those whose help is in God.

One: God, you lift up the humble and watch over all who are vulnerable.

All: For all generations, praise God.

CONGREGATION SINGS:

*A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: This third Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for joy and remember God is the light on our path.

All: Strengthen our hearts, for the coming of the Christ is near.

One: God is a God of justice who brings food to the hungry and inclusion to the rejected. God lifts up the lowly and lowers the mighty.

All: Strengthen our hearts, for the coming of the Christ is near.

One: We join our hearts with that of the desert gushing with life. We join our joy with that of Mary who sings with excitement for the child to come.

All: Strengthen our hearts, for the coming of the Christ is near.

CANDLES ARE LIT

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

HYMN: #450 "Here At This Font" (verses 1 & 2)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

One: Let us celebrate the gift of grace given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism.

All: There is one body and one spirit; we have one hope in Christ.

One: There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

All: Out of the waters of Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.

INTRODUCTION & VOWS

One: Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

All: As a Baptized and Baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: The Creed (VU #918)

THE BAPTISM

HYMN: #450 “Here At This Font” (verses 3 & 4)

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Responsive Reading: (#898 – VU)

Matthew 11: 2-11

AHTHEM:

SERMON:

HYMN: #30 “Hail to God’s Own Anointed”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

OFFERTORY:

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:

Gracious God, we are called to strengthen our hearts for the coming of Christ is near. Let us live in the light of God, that we may abound in joy and act for justice. We bring the best of ourselves and these offerings and those given through PAR to God’s church and world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

HYMN: #312 “Praise with Joy the World’s Creator”

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “I am Walking a Path of Joy” (221 MV)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In Loving Memory and thanksgiving for the life of

Tena Palmer

by Lynn, Verda, Ruth & families

In loving memory of a dear husband & father

Augustus (Gus) F. Eveleigh

by Georgina, Gloria, Rosalind & their families

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Today we are pleased to welcome into membership of our church family
through the Sacrament of Baptism

Olivia Catherine Wanda Brennan

daughter of Justin & Alison Brennan