

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

Office Telephone: 834-4567, Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9-1 Fax: 834-6200

"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."

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| - Ministers: | The Congregation |
| - Clergy: | Rev. Bruce Kearley |
| - Youth Program Coordinator: | Heather Cronhelm |
| - Youth Band Director: | Brett Vey |
| - Musical Ensemble: | Inspiration Band
Courage Choir |
| - Office Manager: | Jacqui Kennedy |
| - Caretaker: | Roger Richards |

December 18th 2016

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Today we join with our children, youth and Sunday School leaders in a Christmas pageant entitled *Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior*. We will experience that first Christmas night through the eyes of a group of Shepherds. We will be invited to learn as the shepherds did on that night, that everyone is special in the eyes of God.

The first scene opens with the shepherds standing around a campfire. They are located on a hillside just outside of Bethlehem. It is a beautiful starry night but there is a lot of commotion all around, as people rush to Bethlehem to be counted in the census.

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: You lead your people gently and kindly.

All: You sent us your light and your salvation.

One: Hear us and restore us, Lord God Almighty
Help us to hear you and know you are here.

All: Jesus Christ is our Lord, our light and our salvation.
Let us praise and worship Him together.

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

HYMN: #91 The First Noel (verses 1&6)

Lighting of the Advent Candles

CONGREGATION SINGS:

*A candle is burning, a candle of love
A candle to point us to Heaven above
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

One: In the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love, and to remind us that God is the light on our paths.

All: **Light up our hearts with your ways.**

One: God as with Mary. God was with Joseph. When we face uncertainty, God be with us.

All: **Light up our hearts with your ways.**

One: God sends Christ to open our hearts to an immense love. God, as we wait,

All: **light up our hearts with your ways.**

Candles are lit

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-10

OFFERTORY:

What can I give Him poor as I am
If I were a shepherd I would bring 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:

Here our gifts we offer God, thankful for your blessings. Take them, spirit, use them to spread the loving Christmas message. Christ comes to bring us life for all creation. May our gifts help bring to all, love and transformation. Amen

Nativity Pageant

"Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior"

(Created by Ed Kee Brentwood-Benson music publishing)

COMMISSIONING: (*responsively*)

One: Let us go forth striving to be compassionate as our creator is compassionate, celebrating the birth of Jesus,

All: **In whose Way of love, justice and mercy we walk with our sisters and brothers. Amen** (adapted from Judith Andrews)

(Parts of the service are taken from (Seasons of the spirit, United Church-ca.)



TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of mother and grandmother

Laura LeGrow

from son Ed, daughter-in-law Deborah and daughter Christine

In loving memory of

Loved Ones

By Barbara Brown

The day of the Christmas pageant has arrived! There has been much preparation for this day during the past couple of months. I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to make this Pageant service a special one. Thank you to the children and youth from the Sunday School, Courage choir, and the Inspiration Band. Thank you to our guest musicians Colin Perry and Nick Slade. A huge thank you to Sunday School leaders and parents. Also many thanks to Brett for his dedication in leading our children's musical programs and to Stephen Stone for working on the sound board. Thank you to Doreen Cave for organizing hay for our stable. Finally thank you to all within our congregation who have in any way, lent a helping hand.

Merry Christmas and God bless, Heather. All are invited to gather downstairs for a time of refreshments, fellowship and carol singing.

Merry Christmas