

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:	Steven Rogers
- Organist:	Beth Cranston
- Choir Director:	Andrew Cranston
- Choir:	Mixed Choir
- Office Manager:	Nicole Ivey-Cross
- Caretaker:	Roger Richards

February 28th, 2016

3rd in Lent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Our longing for God may at times find expression in a thirsting for a holy and personal encounter. God's steadfast love promises that such yearning will be satisfied. Our lives continually move between those hopes of encounter and their fulfillment by God. At the beginning of the day and at its end, our seeking of God is met by God's seeking of us.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "To the Desert Jesus Came" (VU113, vs. 2)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive - Based on Psalm 63:1-8)

One: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

All: **God, our souls thirst for you, our flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land.**

One: Why do you labour and spend your money on the things that don't satisfy?

All: **We look up and see God in the sanctuary.**

One: Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good and delight yourselves in rich food.

All: Our souls are satisfied with a rich feast, and our mouths praise you with joyful lips.

One: Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

All: We will bless you as long as we live! We will lift up our hands and call on your name!

One: Come, let us worship.

CONGREGATION SINGS: (sing twice)

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you,
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield,
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you!

A Lenten candle Liturgy

(each week a purple candle is extinguished)

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

OPENING PRAYER: (Responsive)

One: God, we look up and see you in the sanctuary. We come to you hungry and thirsty, ready to be filled with the bread of life, ready to be refreshed by living water.

All: God, our lips praise your name, singing songs and shouting to the heavens. We cling to you, God, in times of trouble. We cling to you, God, when we fall.

One: We lift up our hands and call on your name. We come to this place to satisfy our souls, to meditate on your love, to remember the journeys of those who go before us.

All: God, in the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy! Amen.

HYMN: #644 "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" (vs 1-3)

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: #644 “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry” (vs 5-7)

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 55: 1-5

Psalms 63 (#781 – VU)

Luke 13: 6-9

ANTHEM: “Seek Ye first/In His Time” (Lafferety/Ball)

SERMON:

HYMN: #678 “For The Healing of the Nations”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

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)

Generous God, we dedicate these gifts and our whole lives to you. You provide for our needs and deepest longings. Take these gifts and help them be the water that quenches others’ thirst, and the food that makes a rich feast of justice and peace in today’s world. Amen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER:

HYMN: #266 “Amazing Grace”

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

*Today we are pleased to welcome into membership of our
Church family through The Sacrament of Baptism*

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Whitney Elizabeth Pendergast
daughter of Sheldon and Lisa Pendergast