

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."

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Ministers: | The Congregation |
| - Youth Program Coordinator: | Heather Cronhelm |
| - Organist: | Beth Cranston |
| - Choir Director: | Andrew Cranston |
| - Choir: | Mixed Choir |
| - Office Manager: | Jacqueline Kennedy |
| - Caretaker: | Roger Richards |
| - Clergy: | Rev. Bruce Kearley |

April 2nd, 2017

5th of Lent/Sacrament of Holy Communion

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Today's readings reference being raised up to new Life: Lazarus and Ezekiel's bones from physical death and the Psalmist from the depths of anguish and despair. Through each reading we are aware of the Breath-Spirit-Word of God moving to bring restoration and renewal.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "To The Desert Jesus Came" (VU113, v.4)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: Wait and watch for God!

All: Even when we feel in the depths of death and despair?

One: Wait and watch for God!

All: Even when life seems like a night that never ends?

One: Wait and watch for God! In God there is constant love and kindness.

All: We will wait and watch with hope.

One: Let us worship God!

"Lenten Light"

(Increasing the light on our Lenten Journey)

CONGREGATION SINGS: (#352 – "I Danced in the Morning" v. 1&5)

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (In Unison)

Gracious God, in the midst of death, you offer life. In the midst of despair, you offer hope. In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, you offer a new way of seeing things, a new way of understanding things. Help us to remember this always. Amen.

HYMN: #382 "Breathe on Me Breath of God"

WE LISTEN TO & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (Valley of dry bones.)

Psalms 130 (#853 – My soul waits for God.)

John 11: (selected verses – Jesus raises Lazarus to life.)

SERMON:

HYMN: #457 "As We Gather At This Table"

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)

In hope we offer these gifts & those given through PAR: hope for a peaceful and fair world; hope for an equal distribution of food, medicines, natural resources, and love; hope for the well-being of Mother Earth; hope for many future generations. In hope we bring these gifts as hope for a peaceful and fair world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM: "Bread of Life, Feed my Soul" (MV194)

GATHERING PRAYER:

CONFESSION: (In Unison)

Life-giving God, your creative love and energy surround us, renewing and regenerating a planet that continues to evolve.

New life confronts us: we praise you for a world of beauty and wonder that reflect your care and faithfulness.

Yet, we acknowledge the grief and anger that are often part of loss; we wrestle with unanswered questions and feelings of despair. We own our tendency to give up on faith when life no longer makes sense, or to attack the people who seem to be responsible.

We remember Jesus who declared, "I am the resurrection and the life," yet wept at the death of a friend.

(a moment of Silence is kept)

Come, O Spirit! Bring us comfort and courage when death stares us in the face. Come, O Spirit! Give us strength and new energy to resist the powers of destruction and despair that undermine life. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (sung #959)

(The Bread is broken & The Cup is lifted)

(Communion is shared)

HYMN: #586 "We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "There is a Balm in Gilead" (VU612)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of my dear husband

Hubert Stokes

by wife Olive

In loving memory of a wonderful father & grandfather

Hubert Stokes

forever loved and missed

by daughter Ruth, granddaughter Geri & Family

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