

Topsail United Church
“The Church by the side of the road”
December 24, 2017
Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m.

**WELCOME & BLESSINGS ON THIS NIGHT OF LIGHT
AND JOY!**

The Musical Prelude:

Introit:

Follow the star of the night,
Star of wonder, star so bright
Offer your gifts whatever they are,
Be not afraid, follow the star

Call To Worship: (Responsive - Alex Pelley)

One: A child is born in a manger in Bethlehem?

All: We are filled with joy!

One: Angels brought the good news and sang “Glory to God in the highest”

All: We are filled with joy!

One: The shepherds and wise men came to worship him, just as we do this day.

All: We are filled with joy!

One: All is ready! Come and worship!

Congregation Sings: #69” VU “Away in a Manger” Verse 1

Prayer of Approach : (Sara Vey)

On this the holiest of nights, we hear the whisper of angel wings. We hear their joyful song and we come with the shepherds to kneel and show our love! Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle
The Hodder Family

*We honour Messiah with Christ candle’s flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian’s true light.*

The Christmas Story: Rev. Bruce

Christmas Prayer: (Charlotte Powell)

Praise God, Praise God for the joy of children and grandchildren.
Praise God for shrieks of happiness heard when gifts are opened.
Praise God for laughter and thank-yous for words of wonder and surprise. Praise God for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, our reason for celebration.

(adapted from Faithful Moments compiled by Jackie Harper)

The Lord's Prayer:

Christmas with the Children **(The Legend of the Animals)**

Offertory:

Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away, you'll end up having more.
It's just like a magic penny, hold on tight and you won't have any.
Lend it spend it and you'll have so many- they'll roll all over the floor!
Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away, you'll end up having more.

Offertory Prayer: Avery Pelley

Loving God, we bring our gifts to the stable, gifts of money, our love and ourselves. Accept these humble gifts and bless them, as we celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus the babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

Benediction: Marlee Rumbolt

Go out now into Christmas. May the Bethlehem star guide you on your way. This evening and forevermore.

(adapted from Bob Root, The Gathering 2010)

Hymn #67 - "Silent Night"

(lights dimmed, the choir and the congregation sing together)

Musical Postlude: Selected piano works.