

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Christmas Eve - 8:00 p.m.

SERVICE NOTE

Dream a gift, the Christmas gift that changes everything we see:  
The shimmering of angel wings, the Child the Mystery.

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

**ORGAN PRELUDE:**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** #60 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive)

One: Like the little town of Bethlehem, we also wait beneath the  
silent stars of winter,

**All: Waiting for the child born of Mary.**

One: How silently comes the gift which is given,

**All: So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.**

One: We hear the Christmas angels, the glad tidings tell:

**All: O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

One: Let us worship God!

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

**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.**

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE***

**CAROL:** #44 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**PRAYER OF APPROACH:** (in unison)

God, we gather to hear anew the story of your dream come true in  
Jesus, yes, the babe born in Bethlehem. But the dream did not end  
there; it is being fulfilled among us today, wherever peace and hope  
hold sway and love's light dwells in each adult, child, and teen. Give us  
the courage of Joseph and Mary, the wonder of waiting shepherds who

tarry, and the voice of glorious angels as we sing. May our dreams be not of certain gifts, but of the One who with us lifts, the good news that this blessed babe will bring. Amen.

(Written by *Michele Rowe*, St. Andrews's U.C. & Centre for Peace, Golden, B.C., *Gathering, Advent/Christmas/epiphany*, 2017-2018, page. 33. Used with permission.)

**ANTHEM:** "Still, Still, Still" (#47 VU)

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 2: 1 - 20 (The Christmas Story)

**CAROL: #48** Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER:**

**OFFERING & DEDICATION:**

From all that dwells below the skies  
Let songs of hope and faith arise;  
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:** (in unison- Seasons of the Spirit)

God who gives us the greatest gift of all, your very self, may we give our very selves to you and to each other. We thank you for all we have, and for the opportunity to share with each other, and those less fortunate. We remember the poor, the forgotten and unseen people, may these gifts help us all to see Christ in each other, a light of love and compassion. Amen.

**ANTHEM:** "Who Would Send A Baby" (Mary Kay Beall)

**SERMON:** "*Angels Bending Near The Earth*"

**ANTHEM:** "Before the Marvel of this Night" (#40 VU)

**CAROL: #67** "Silent night" (lights are dimmed)

**BLESSING & SENDING FORTH:**

**CHRISTMAS VESPERS:**

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE:**