

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

"The Church by the Side of the Road"

P.O. Box 13010, Station Topsail, Conception Bay South, NL, A1W 2K1

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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
- Youth Program Coordinator:	Brett Very
- Organist:	Beth Cranston
- Choir Director:	Andrew Cranston
- Choir:	Mixed Choir
- Office Manager:	Jacqueline Kennedy
- Caretaker:	Roger Richards
- Clergy:	Rev. Bruce Kearley

December 3^d, 2017

1st of Advent/Sacrament of Holy Communion

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Advent is a troubling time for many, with its language of endings, not beginnings. We may not grasp the meaning of the first Advent, without embracing the possibility, the hope, and assurance of God being revealed again.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "O Come, O come Emmanuel" (VU 1 v.1)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: In every season of life,

All: **God is always with us, even when we believe otherwise.**

One: In this season of waiting,

All: **Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem is the beginning of our discipleship, not the end of the journey.**

One: In this season of Advent anticipation and hope,

All: **the Spirit opens our ears to the songs of the angels.**

One: Come, let us worship.

CONGREGATION SINGS:

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (In Unison)

As we begin our Advent journey, O god, we find ourselves waiting in hope. Waiting is nothing new. We seem to always be waiting for something. Yet, in this time, you call us to wait with hope, not frustration or despair, trusting that you are with us and will show us the way. Open us up to this hopeful waiting. Amen.

(Written by *Catherine Tovell, Kilworth U.C., Komoka, Ont. Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017-2018, page 27. Used with permission)

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

HYMN: #345 "Come, Children, join to Sing"

WE LISTEN & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 80 (#794 – part 1)

Mark 13: 24-37

SERMON: "God is Very Near"

HYMN: #337 "Blessed Assurance"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

OFFERTORY:

Hope is a star that shines in the night
Leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (In Unison)

May we be alert enough to watch for the opportunities we will have to serve others in this season of holiness, as well as the ways in which we can offer those intangible gifts of our presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM: "Bread of the World" (Ron Klusmeier)

GATHERING PRAYER:

CONFESSION: (in unison)

Gracious God, as we continue our faith journey this season, we recognize that sometimes it's hard to see the bigger picture of what you call us to do. The world we know beckons us to follow something other than your way. We often ignore the path that you have put before us and are silent when we should speak. We stand still when we should be going out to proclaim your word. We shut our eyes to the needs that are all around us. We doubt the strength within ourselves to turn away from the world's ways and follow you. Forgive us, God and help us find our voice and open our eyes so we may serve you better.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (sung #959)

(Communion is shared)

HYMN: #9 "People, Look East"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "When the Child Wakes" (v.1 arr. S. Porter)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

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

In loving memory of father

Ben Roper

from Doreen Cave

In memory of our loving parents

Art & Pearl Penney & Margaret & Norman Reynolds
from Art & Verna Penney

In loving memory of
Charles & Amelia (Millie) Barbour
& James M. Bugden & Maryann Bugden
from Len, Eloise, Sharon, Steven & families

In loving memory of
Bertram & Violet Perry
from grandson Geoff & family