

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
- Clergy:	Rev. Bruce Kearley
- Youth Program Coordinator:	Heather Cronhelm
- Youth Band Director:	Brett Vey
- Musical Ensemble:	Inspiration Band
	Courage Choir
- Office Manager:	Jacqui Kennedy
- Caretaker:	Roger Richards

March 19th 2017
Third Sunday of Lent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! *As we gather together to worship, we acknowledge God as creator, redeemer and sustainer. In journeying through Lent may we turn from paths that do not recognize God's goodness? May we claim God's promise to provide for our needs. We join with First Nations peoples of our country in acknowledging that all creation is sacred and connected. Let us make new our commitment as God's people to care for each other and all creation!*

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive) Jillian Moran

One: Creator has placed each and everyone of us here for a purpose!

All: Let us praise Creator for the earth below our feet. For Mother Earth sustains us, and all creation cries out for justice.

One: Creator has given us the Eastern direction: the direction of vision, children and the sun that rises on us each day.

All: Let us view the world with child- like wonder, full of awe and humility. Thankful for the new day that dawns on us each and every morning. We give thanks for God who gives us new mercies every day.

One: Creator has given us the southern direction: the direction of honesty, adolescence and growth

All: Help us to speak only the truth, and open our hearts to hear the stories of others. Inspire us to grow in the image of Christ who teaches us to walk the good path.

One: Creator has given us the western direction: The direction of adulthood, harvesting, and deep spiritual understanding.

All: Give us the tools we need to act on the knowledge we are gathering, allowing us to act with maturity and grace.

One: Creator has given us the northern direction: the direction of Elders, achievement and a deep connection to spirituality.

All: Empower us to learn from the past, and to move forward to create your companionship of empowerment* here on Mother Earth. Holy Spirit, give us the teachings we need to correct any wrongs, and to live lives full of love, peace, and hope. Be with us now, Creator, as we worship you in awe-filled praise. Amen

"Lenten Light"

(Increasing the light on our Lenten Journey")

CONGREGATION SINGS:

Hey Ney Yana (please see insert)

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)* Brooke Fowler

O God, it is you who is creator of the universe. We thank you for entrusting us to such a beautiful earth to live in and enjoy. Help us to respect your abundant gift. Be with us so that we can walk gently upon Earth and share what you have given to all of us. Help us to care for it and rejoice in it with all of your children. Amen

Hymn: *O Beautiful Gaia (Please see insert)*

CHILDREN'S TIME: *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands"*

led by the Inspiration Band and Courage Choir

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 7:7-12 (Alex Pelley)

Exodus 17:1-7 (Kiana Landry)

Ministry of Music: *Big Yellow Taxi* by Joni Mitchell

Presented by the Courage Choir and Inspiration Band

Reflection: *Remembering God's Goodness*

Hymn: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (VU 291, vs. 1,3, & 5)

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: (in unison)

God bless these gifts we give you. Give them something kind to do. May they help someone to love you. Father may we love you too. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:

One: God of mercy, hear the prayers of your thirsting people. For every time we have attributed your miracles in our lives to our own hands alone.

All: Forgive us we pray.

One: For every time we promised to trust you but turned to our own way when your response did not come soon enough or in the way we expected.

All: Grant us mercy, O God.

One: For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness that we refused.

All: Show us what it means to love again, dear Lord.

One: For each way we put our own understandings above your wisdom, for each time we resist your command to be reconciled with those who believe differently from us.

All: Direct us in the way of peace, we pray.

One: For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence, and our indifference to the suffering around us,

**All: Forgive us Loving One, and quench our thirst with your grace;
Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion. Amen**

HYMN: *O God Beyond All Praising* (VU 256)

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION: *(read responsively)*

One: Let us go forth called to God's Holy covenant.

All: God continues to guide us: attending to our stories healing us as brothers and sisters, showing us how to live in right relations.

One: God promises to bless and encourage us on the path of respect.
So go with peace and the promise of God, the energy of the Spirit of love, and the passion of Jesus. Amen

parts of today's service are taken from *Living on the path of respect, a worship Service on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery*, united-church.ca

Thirsting for Grace, Worship ways - United Church of Christ, uccfiles.com

**"Companionship of power" is a term that John Dominic Crossan offers to replace the "kingdom of God". (in Marcus Borg, Ed., Jesus at 2000 (Westview, 1998), p. 22-55)*

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of a wonderful father and grandfather

Ernest Deering

by Glenys, Mitch, Leslie and Jillian Moran

In loving memory of

Donald Richards and Laure (Decker) Richards

From Rosie Frey, Don, Mark & Scott Richards

In Loving Memory of

Sydney Erin Baggs

from Grandmother Sandra Baggs & Family

Hey Ney Yana (More Voices # 217)

Hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na

Hey ney ya - na, hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo

I walk in beau - ty, yes I do, yes I do,
I talk in beau - ty, yes I do, yes I do,
I sing of beau - ty, hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo

Hey ney ya - na, hey ney ya - na
Hey ney ya - na, hey ya hey yo, hey ya hey yo

O Beautiful Gaia (More Voices # 41)

Chorus

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

1. Soil yielding it's harvest, O Gaia calling us home.
Soil yielding its harvest,
calling us on.

Chorus

2. Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia calling your name.
Waves crashing on granite,
calling us on.

Chorus

3. Pine bending in wind storm, O Gaia calling us home.
Pine bending in wind storm,
calling us on.

Chorus