

# 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."

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

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**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*4<sup>th</sup> in Lent/Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

## **SERVICE NOTE**

**WELCOME!** How can we describe God, who is so far beyond human understanding? The psalmist uses the metaphor of shepherd, one who guards and cares for the flock. Even when we are uncertain and afraid, we trust that God is with us to nurture and restore. God's restorative love is shown in Jesus, who brings sight to one born blind and calls all to new ways of living and seeing.

## **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:**

**INTROIT:** "To The Desert Jesus Came" (VU113 v. 3)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive)

One: God, our shepherd, calls us to this place.

**All: God leads us beside quiet streams, and into lush meadows.**

One: Even in dark and difficult places, God never abandons us.

**All: God pursues us to the ends of Earth, upholding us in love.**

One: Come, let us worship God.

### **CONGREGATION SINGS:** (VU 661. V.1)

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

# "Lenten Light"

(Increasing the light on our Lenten Journey)

## WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

### PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Loving God, we have come here today to hear your word and let it change us. We have come to be refreshed by your presence and reminded that we are never far from you. Open our hearts to receive you, and to reach out to others in love. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

**HYMN:** #450 "Here At This Font" (verses 1 & 2)

### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**One:** Let us celebrate the gift of grace given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism.

**All:** **There is one body and one spirit; we have one hope in Christ.**

**One:** There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

**All:** **Out of the waters of Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.**

### INTRODUCTION & VOWS

**One:** Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**All:** **As a Baptized and Baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** The Creed (VU #918)

### THE BAPTISM

**HYMN:** #450 "Here At This Font" (verses 3 & 4)

### **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

### SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 23 (#749 – VU – The Lord is my Shepherd.)

John 9: 1-12 (A man born blind receives sight.)

**AHTHEM:** "Healer of Our Every ill (VU619)

**SERMON:**        **"Seeing With Heart"**

**HYMN:** #514     "God the Spirit, Guide & Guardian"

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**OFFERTORY:**

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:**

Loving God, giver of all things, as people alive to your goodness we offer these gifts and those given through PAR. We offer the talents of this community to the service of all your people within our neighbourhood and beyond, throughout our nation and our world. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**HYMN:** #371     "Open My eyes, That I May See"

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** "Are You A Shepherd" (MV126 v.3)

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE:**

**GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

Today we are pleased to welcome into membership of our church family through the Sacrament of Baptism

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***Scarlett Elizabeth Wheaton***

daughter of Seretha & Truman Wheaton

***Addison Sophia Squires***

daughter of Amanda & Jason Squires

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

In loving memory of father

***Bert Cave***

By Ken, Doreen & family

In loving memory of

***Henry Hart***

by Glenda & William Butt