

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:	Heather Cronhelm
- Organist:	Beth Cranston
- Choir Director:	Andrew Cranston
- Choir:	Mixed Choir
- Office Manager:	Jacqueline Kennedy
- Caretaker:	Roger Richards
- Clergy:	Rev. Bruce Kearley

March 5th, 2017
1st of Lent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Life is full of movement – sometimes toward something new, sometimes away from something bad, but always an adventure. The readings for this week could be seen as inviting us into an adventure that will last throughout the Season of Lent. Each of the weekly readings may be familiar to us, but they contain a sense of surprise and adventure for those in the stories themselves, as they find certainty in the midst of uncertainty.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "To The Desert Jesus Came" (VU113, v.1)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: Come into the wilderness. Come to this place away from the world.

All: We come to find ourselves ever more in the presence of God.

One: Come, as Jesus did, and rest a while.

All: When we rest, we find ourselves refreshed and renewed.

One: Come, knowing that wilderness is not a place to be feared, but a place to be enjoyed.

All: We come to find ourselves in this place.

One: Come into this sacred place, and let us worship God.

"Lenten Light"

(Increasing the light on our Lenten Journey)

CONGREGATION SINGS:

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (In Unison)

Loving God, today we begin our Lenten adventure, a time of anticipation and wonder, yet always overshadowed by the reality of the cross. We come to this season hoping that we might hear again in the stories of scripture truths about your love for your people, and find ourselves renewed in faith. Amen.

HYMN: #112 "O God, How We Have Wandered"

WE LISTEN TO & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 32 (#759)

Matthew 4: 1-11

SERMON: *"And So It Begins"*

HYMN: #115 "Jesus Tempted In The Desert"

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

OFFERTORY: (VU #540)

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: (In Unison)

Take these gifts and those given through PAR, loving God, and use them for your work. Take our very selves – our hopes, our dreams, our plans, our wonderings – and use them, also, to make your world a better place. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM: “This Do in Remembrance of me”

GATHERING PRAYER:

CONFESSION: (In Unison)

Creating God, the universe is a vast and awesome place. We reflect on the story of our human journey: the natural world is constantly changing and we are concerned about choices that bring destruction. We have inherited a humanity that knows hunger, broken relationships, and death. We own our share in the making of wrong decisions and their consequences; Today we are led by the Spirit with Jesus into the wilderness. Help us to find a path through the desert places, to fullness of life for all. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD’S PRAYER: (sung #959)

*(The Bread is broken & The Cup is lifted)
(Communion is shared)*

HYMN: #108 “Through these Lenten Days and Nights”

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

One: Even in times of temptations,

All: God provides guidance and strength.

One: Even when we do things wrong,

All: God does not stop loving us and forgiving us.

One: Even when we are in the Season of Lent, moving towards Good Friday,

All: still there is light, and the promise of Easter.

One: So go into the world – and into this season – filled with thanksgiving for the God who never abandons us, no matter what, and know that God will be with you always.

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “Bread of Life, Feed my Soul” (MV 194, v.3)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE: