

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

December 23rd, 2018

4th of Advent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! This week's scripture readings begin to connect the different puzzle pieces of God's coming reign. Mary's song connects her present celebration with the blessings of Israel's past and with the hope-filled promises of the future. As you read, consider what puzzle pieces are fitting together as you celebrate the goodness of the reign of God which dwells both in our past and in our future.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

INTROIT: "When Lights are Lit on Christmas Eve" (Peder Knudsen)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: God chose an unexpected village as the birthplace for the Messiah.

All: Our God is full of surprises!

One: God called an older woman and a young girl to be prophets.

All: Our God is full of surprises!

One: God calls ordinary people – you and me – to work for justice and healing in our land.

All: Our God is full of surprises!

One: Come, let us worship our surprising God.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

(Written by Don Stiles, Seeley's Bay UC., Seeley's Bay, Ont. *Gathering*, Advent.Christmas.Epiphany 2018-2019, p.70.
Used with permission)

CONGREGATION SINGS:

**A Candle is burning, a candle of love,
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

(Words © 1986 Sandra Dean, 1134 Plant Dry. Ottawa, ON K1V 9E8. Music: James R. Murray)

PRAYER OF APPROACH:# 11 - VU (In Unison)

HYMN: #29 "Hark the Glad Sound" (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: #29 "Hark the Glad Sound" (verses 3 & 4)

WE LISTEN & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Micah 5 (selected verses)

Luke 1: 39-45, 46-55

ANTHEM: "Bethlehem Town" (J. Paul Williams & Jon Paige)

REFLECTION:

HYMN: #64 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

OFFERTORY:

Joyful, joyful we adore you God of glory life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away,
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Words: Henry Van Dyke 1907. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824. Adapted by Edward Hodges. Descant: © 1979 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (In Unison)

Bless now these gifts, God. Help them to become instruments of your grace that help us to fill the hungry with good things, to lift up the lowly, to help all your servants show mercy so that we will all remember your promise that this world is about to turn. Amen.

PRAYERS & THE LORD’S PRAYER:

HYMN: #38 Angels We Have Heard on High”

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “I am Walking a Path of Love” (MV #221)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

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

Norah Evelyn Chapman

Daughter of Matthew & Sarah Chapman

Merry Christmas