

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

"The Church by the Side of the Road"

Fully accessible for people with physical disabilities

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."

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Ministers: | The Congregation |
| - Youth Program Coordinator: | Brett Vey |
| - Organist: | Beth Cranston |
| - Choir Director: | Andrew Cranston |
| - Office Manager: | Jacqueline Kennedy |
| - Caretaker: | Roger Richards |
| - Minister | Rev. Wayne Cole |

United Church of Canada

Topsail United Church

Sunday, August 25, 2019; 10:30 AM

THE GATHERING

Organ Prelude

Welcoming & Announcements

THE APPROACH

Call to Worship (Responsive)

L: With great rejoicing we come to the house of the Lord today!

P: God is our refuge and our stronghold.

L: The power and love of God flow through this gathering.

P: We place our whole trust in God's mighty compassion for us.

L: Come, let us worship the Lord!

P: Let us celebrate the presence of God here in this place and in all our lives. **AMEN.**

Congregation Sings: Like A Rock (MV#92)

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

Keri K. Wehlander, 1998. Adapted to music: Linnea Good, 1999. Words and music copyright 1999 Borealis Music, www.linneagood.com. Used by permission.)

Opening Prayer (unison)

Lord God, whose power and mercy have extended to all ends of creation, pour your love on us this day that we might be healed and be made ready to serve you by serving others in this world that you have created. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Hymn: VU #660 How Firm a Foundation

Time with the Youth

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord God, we are so bound by rules and regulations that we fail to see the human need that goes beyond the bounds of structures. We easily relegate compassionate service to those agencies in our society that have that as their mandate, forgetting that you have given us the supreme mandate to care for one another, even as you have cared for us. We turn our backs on those in need, giving the responsibility to someone else. "Let someone else do the work," we proclaim. And in that proclamation we have revealed our selfishness and our inability to be your disciples. Stop us from our selfish ways, and heal our hardened hearts. Forgive us, again, as you have so often before when we have failed to be your witnesses and workers. Help us become involved in ministries of peace and justice right where we are, for there is nowhere in creation where your love is not needed. Let us bring messages of love and hope to all people. Bring us to an understanding of the partnership of healing and hope that abides in your service. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

(Silent Reflection). **AMEN.**

Words of Assurance: *(Minister)*

Though we have failed time and time again to be God's people, yet God heals and forgives us. God is with us always, ready to lift and guide our lives. Place your life and your cares in God's loving presence. AMEN.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 1: 4-10

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Psalm: 71: Part 1 (MV pg. 789)

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.)

Gospel: Luke 13: 10-17

(All: Praise be to Christ, the Living Word)

Sermon: "Over 12 inches wide, you are in trouble"

Ministry of Music:

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn: VU # 289 It Only Takes a Spark

Minute for Mission: See back cover

Invitation of the Offering

Offering:

Offertory Hymn: VU #540 Grant us, God, the Grace

Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free.

That ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.

*Words: anonymous. Music: attributed to Christian F. Witt, Psalmodia Sacra,
adapted by Henry John Gauntlett)*

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Spirit of God, the air is alive with new possibilities. We are excited to live as your people. May these gifts, offered in love, become a means of transformation in us and others. In God's grace we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

THE SENDING FORTH

Hymn: VU #714 *Come, We That Love*

Commissioning: *(Responsive)*

P: *May we leave here today feeling the presence of God, son and the Holy Spirit.*

M: *May God, the Creator, create in us a new heart.*

P: *May Jesus, the word made flesh, bring the word alive in our souls.*

M: *And may the spirit of rebirth be born again in us today.*

Benediction: *(Minister)*

Organ Postlude

Minute for Mission:

Reconnecting Families with Community

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of healing and reconciliation. Here is a story of how the church's Healing Fund is uplifting a healthy, unified Gitxsan Nation.

Gitxsan Nation is a First Nations community in British Columbia that has challenges stemming from the impact of Indian residential schools. One is the loss of traditional parenting, usually transferred from grandparents and parents to children. This loss has contributed to the community's social issues, such as unhealthy relationships, social isolation, substance use, and crime.

In spite of these challenges, the Gitxsan Nation envisions health and wellness growing stronger among its people. The Healing Continues project is a holistic program designed to teach families traditional parenting skills, provide cultural psycho-education (grief, stress reduction, etc.), and help them participate in ceremonies on the land. Elders conduct home visits to support the families, model traditional parenting, and provide mentorship. Community services are also contributing to the project by training their workers to offer experiential, land-based healing.

In using the Gitxsan healing model, based on the community's knowledge and practices, Gitxsan Nation is reconnecting families with their community to reduce isolation and stress, and help them learn healthy behaviours and traditional parenting.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.