

# TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

*"The Church by the Side of the Road"*

[www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](http://www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)

Office Telephone: 834-4567, Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9-1 Fax: 834-6200

**"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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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - <b>Ministers:</b>                 | <b>The Congregation</b>   |
| - <b>Youth Program Coordinator:</b> | <b>Brett Vey</b>          |
| - <b>Organist:</b>                  | <b>Beth Cranston</b>      |
| - <b>Choir Director:</b>            | <b>Andrew Cranston</b>    |
| - <b>Choir:</b>                     | <b>Men's Choir</b>        |
| - <b>Office Manager:</b>            | <b>Jacqueline Kennedy</b> |
| - <b>Caretaker:</b>                 | <b>Roger Richards</b>     |
| - <b>Minister:</b>                  | <b>Rev. Wayne Cole</b>    |

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**Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019; 10:30 AM  
THE GATHERING**

**Organ Prelude**

**Introit:** When the Child Wakes (arr. S. Porter) v. 2

## **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Second Sunday in Advent The Candle of the Shepherds**

1. This is the second candle – the second Advent candle – the candle of the shepherds. We, like many others, were waiting for the Messiah – The Redeemer to come one day...*some day*. (light the second candle)
2. Nevertheless, we were surprised – no, shocked – to be told by God's Host of Heaven that the Messiah had been born unto us *this day* as a baby who would be our Savior, our Christ, and our Lord.

**All: In wonderment and with great haste we left what we were doing to see this wonderful thing which had been announced to us. When, at last, we found the newborn King in a stable, with His parents, we worshipped and praised Him. That was all that we had to give Him, our undying praise! Praise is all any of us can give to a King who is God.**

**Advent Candle Lighting:** A Candle Is Burning VU #6 v. 2

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
A candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

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

### **Opening Prayer**

God of hope and encouragement, we come in the midst of this season of busyness and preparations: to find a time and space to slow down, to reflect on what our true preparations should be. We need to prepare our hearts to receive the gifts of love and hope. We need to prepare our minds to focus on your promise that a messiah will come and nothing will be the same. We need to prepare our spirits: to praise God for prophecy, promises, and preparation; to find hope and encouragement; to find peace and joy. May we do so now, in our time of worship. **Amen.**

**Hymn:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VU #8

### **Prayer of Confession (unison):**

O God, the stories of our faith have lost their power. We have heard the prophecies spoken so many times, the promises retold again and again, the call to prepare ourselves for your coming repeated so often, we don't really hear or heed them anymore. We have replaced these messages of life: with guessing what presents we are getting, with preparing for parties and the social obligations of Christmas. Bring us back to a sense of mystery: a sense of awe, a sense of wonder, a sense of excitement, a sense of anticipation, a sense that something special is about to break into our everyday world. Help us prepare our hearts, souls, and minds for the coming of the messiah. **Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance:** *(Minister)*

God's promises are sure—promises of steadfast love and forgiveness. God deals with God's people with righteousness and justice. Rejoice and be glad!

## **Scripture Readings:**

**Hebrew Scripture:** Isaiah 11: 1-10

**Psalms:** 72: Part 1 (VU# 790)

*(All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**New Testament:** Romans 15: 4-13

*(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

*All: Thanks be to God.)*

**Gospel:** Matthew 3: 1-12

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

**Sermon:** “Get the Garbage Out”

**Anthem:** Let There Be Room (Winston Coles)

### **THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Hymn:** On Jordan’s Bank VU #20

**Minute for Mission:** See back cover

#### **Invitation of the Offering:**

Our God has done wondrous things, and has done them for us. Let us respond to God’s acts of love and wonder by offering our whole selves, that God’s promises might be fulfilled through us.

**Offering Music:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU #1 v. 7

**Offertory Hymn:** Hope Is A Star VU #7 v. 2

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
Giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there’s joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and  
none shall be afraid.

*(Words: Brian Wren 1985 Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987. Words, Music: © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)*

**Offertory Prayer (unison):**

We thank you, Holy One, for all your good gifts, especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation. As a thankful response to these gifts, we offer our belief, our commitments, and our money, that we may hasten the time when no one will hurt or destroy on all God's holy mountain.

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**THE SENDING FORTH**

**Hymn:** Hark the Glad Sound VU #29

**Benediction:** (responsive)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Choral Benediction:** I am Walking a Path of Peace MV #221

**Organ Postlude**

**Today's bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God and  
donated**

With love and thanksgiving for the life of

***Tena Palmer***

from Larry, Lynn, Verda & Ruth

In loving memory of husband

***Arthur Reid***

from wife Elsie & family

In loving memory of

***Augustus (Gus) Eveleigh***

forever loved and missed

from Rosalind, Ben & family

**Mission & Service in Changing Times**

In these times of change, people are asking, “What’s happening with the Mission & Service of the church?” Our congregational and our Mission & Service revenues are both declining quite slowly at this point—two to three percent a year—so we have time to make changes, and we have time to do things differently.

The good news is that together we are making important changes, and we are taking the time to do things differently.

We are restructuring the four courts of the church to three so that we live within our means. We are clarifying funding, so that assessments will be funding governance and shared services, and Mission & Service donations will be funding purely mission and ministry.

We are continuing to keep decisions about the funding of local mission and ministry in local hands, so that regions will be deciding what mission and ministry will be funded in that region, and by that region. We are focusing on finding and trying out new models of being church by funding innovation in congregations through Mission & Service programs such as Embracing the Spirit, the New Ministries Fund, Edge, and the granting programs of The United Church of Canada Foundation.

These changes will support the capacity for Mission & Service donations to continue to provide core funding to so much great work that’s been going on across Canada and around the world.

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.