

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

"The Church by the Side of the Road"

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

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019; 10:30 AM

1st of Advent/Sacrament of Holy Communion

THE GATHERING

Organ Prelude

Introit: When the Child Wakes (arr. S. Porter) v. 1

Welcome & Announcements

First Sunday in Advent, Let Us Pray

1. As winter days dim and bow to early darkness, you, God of light, set watch in the night sky and beckon the wise to follow.
 2. When hope hangs low in the human heart, you, loving creator, kindle compassion, breathing life into the early embers of change and empathy. (Light the candle)
 3. We light a candle for hope, sending prayers high into the inky heavens and dreams deep into the human soul.
 4. As advent dawns, God of all hope, shine your light on the story of saints who journeyed before us. May the seeds they planted in the world – peace, joy, love – take hold in our hearts and stretch towards the light.
- All: We light a candle for hope. May it light.**

Advent Candle Lighting: A Candle Is Burning VU #6 v. 1

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

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

Opening Prayer

When, O God, will the day of peace come? When will the nations stream to your holy mountain and beat their swords into plowshares? When will the long night of war and hatred, give way to the dawn of love, righteousness, and joy? We are ready for the dawn, O God. Shine your light into our world, mighty One of peace. Illuminate the path, and give us the wisdom and courage to follow your light. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Hymn: People Look East VU #9

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Readings:

New Testament: Isaiah 2:1-5

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.)

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44 **(Minister) The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

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

Sermon: Meditation

Anthem: When Will the Little King Come? (Ruth Elaine Schram)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Greeting

M: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

Communion Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds VU #602

M: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners and invites them to the table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's
forgiveness.

**P: Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought,
word and deed by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we
have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. For the
sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may
delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the
glory of your holy name.**

(Silence for Personal Reflection). Amen.

M: Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ, have mercy.

M: Lord have mercy.

(The Assurance of Forgiveness)

M: Sisters and brothers,
anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether,
the past is finished and gone;
everything has become fresh and new.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

(Presenting of the Gifts)

M: As a forgiven and reconciled people
let us with joy present our gifts at the Table of the
Lord.

Offering Music: In the Bleak Midwinter (Rossetti/Holst) v. 4

Offertory Hymn: Hope Is A Star VU #7 v. 1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.
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
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(The Great Thanksgiving)

M: Blessed are you gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth.
We give thanks and praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who was tempted in every way, yet did not sin.
By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to live no longer for ourselves alone,
but for him who died for us and rose again.
Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and all who served you in every age,
we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**P: (Please sing) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

M: Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth
we recognize the fullness of your grace:
light, life and love,
revealed in words that confront and comfort us,
in teachings that challenge and change us,
in compassion that heals and frees us.
And now we gather at this table to remember
and to be filled with such longing for your realm,
that we may rise together to turn our worship
into witness and to follow in your way.

At this time we remember all those
with whom you would have us share this feast.

- We pray for all who are in sorrow and in pain...
- all who are ill or alone...
- all who live with fear, oppression or hunger...
- for all whom the world counts as last and least...
- We pray for the church and its varied ministries...
- for nations as they strive for peace and justice...
- for those who suffer loss of family, friends' property

- for our families and our friends...

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace,
remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his
resurrection,

waiting in hope for his coming again.

Grant that in praise and thanksgiving,

we may so offer ourselves to you

that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**P: Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

M: O God, pour your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these
gifts, that all who share this loaf and this cup may be
the body of Christ: light, life and love in the world. In
this hope and as your people, we praise you.

**P: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.**

M: And now gathering all our prayers,
spoken and unspoken, we are bold to say/sing:

P: Our Father... (Please sing)

*(The Breaking of the Bread and the Lifting of the Cup)
(The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup):*

Servers:

"The body of Christ, given for you";

"The blood of Christ shed for you".

Prayer after Communion

All: We give thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one
another, and send us forth into the world united
in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of
the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen

Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VU #2

Commissioning (unison)

Benediction: (*Minister*)

Choral Benediction: I am Walking a Path of (Hope) MV
#221

Organ Postlude

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

In loving memory of wife
Beatrice Cooze from Baxter Cooze and
mother **Doris Chaulk**
from Ina Cooze

In loving memory of parents **Malcolm & Edna Boone** and
parents **Chesley & Ella Inder**
from David & Joanne Boone