

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."
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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - 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. 22, 2019; 10:30 AM

THE GATHERING

Organ Prelude

Introit: When the Child Wakes (arr. S. Porter) v.3

Welcome & Announcements

The Candle of Mary

**This is the fourth candle – the fourth Advent candle –
the candle of Mary.**

Reader 1: Who was I, a humble girl, that the Almighty God should look upon me with such favor? He revealed to me that I would be the one to bear His Son – His son who would become the Savior of all humankind.

Reader 2: You have heard that Joseph and I had to travel many days to be counted in the Roman census at the city of our ancestors. You've heard that the night we arrived my Child was born with the animals in the stable of an inn. And you've surely heard that we were visited by a group of shepherds and later by the wise kings from countries in the distance East.

Reader 3: Imagine! My Child – the Child given me by the Almighty God Himself – causing such a stir! As I contemplate all that my Child is, and all that He has done for humankind, I praise Him. I, His mother, praise Him for who He is and for everything He has done. I praise our Lord and our Savior. We all mush praise Him!

Advent Candle Lighting: A Candle Is Burning VU #6 v. 4

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 Dr., Ottawa, ON K1V 9E8. Music: James R. Murray.)

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

O God, in this time of worship, may we be open to your promises, your love, and your transformation. May we vision and dream. May we be surprised. May we receive the life you give us. May we encounter Emmanuel—God with us. And may we never be the same. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Infant Baptism

Baptism Hymn: Bless This Infant (William B. Petricko)

Verse before Baptism

Gentle Jesus, bless these infants, keep them in your tender care.
Bless the parents who have brought them, holding them in arms
of prayer

You who welcomed little children, turned no helpless soul away.

We have brought these children to you, send your spirit here
today.

Verse after Baptism

May this congregation always model love and righteousness.
May they grow in Christian beauty, live in peace and happiness.
Though the future is uncertain, we but trust your promise true.
Step by step each new tomorrow comes with grace to guide them

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading:

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25

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

Meditation: When did you know Joseph?

Anthem: Make Him A Straight Path (Joanna Mills)

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn: All Earth Is Waiting VU #5

Minute for Mission: See insert

Invitation of the Offering:

Offering Music: In the Bleak Midwinter VU #55 v. 4

Offertory Hymn: Hope Is A Star VU #7 v 4

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart
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):

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

THE SENDING FORTH

Hymn: Angels, From the Realms of Glory VU #36

Benediction: (responsive)

M: Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a
son. He shall be called Emmanuel.

P: **We go forth with anticipation and longing.**

M: Share the good news—Emmanuel—God with us, is
coming.

P: **We go with joy and hope, trusting in the promises
of God.**

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

Organ Postlude

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

In loving memory of
Clarence Cole
father of Brad and Brother to Rev. Wayne
from the Men's club

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Healing and Teaching

Rhonda Johns, Program Coordinator of Nations Uniting on the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation in Ohsweken, Ontario, engages with a lot of seniors, many of whom are residential school survivors, and with youth who don't know who they are and where they belong. Observing this intergenerational dynamic, she realized that many on the reserve needed to experience healing. She asked herself what she could do.

The answer came to her in the form of the Reclaiming Our Path program. It helps youth and young adults understand who they are and how behaviours learned from the families raising them, peers, and the community, impact who they are. Using an Indigenous framework and traditional teachings, individuals and families now have an opportunity to reframe who they are and begin to walk a new path toward a future of hope. Reclaiming Our Path is a way to create healthy future leaders.

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.