

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
- Youth Program Coordinator:	Brett Vey
- Organist:	Beth Cranston
- Choir Director:	Andrew Cranston
- Choir:	Men's Choir
- Office Manager:	Jacqueline Kennedy
- Caretaker:	Roger Richards
- Clergy:	Rev. Bruce Kearley

March 10th, 2019

1st in Lent

WELCOME! Lent begins in joyful remembrance of the extravagant outpouring of God's love. This is no generic God onto whom we might impose values that give comfort to the status quo. This is the God of Exodus and liberation, who calls us out of empire domination and temptations into a place where the abundance of God's grace feeds all. The experience of God's grace beckons us to open what we have and who we are in thanksgiving to God, and in sharing with a neighbour.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

INTROIT: "To the Desert Jesus Came" VU113 (v.1)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: Today, we begin our journey of Lent – a journey of following Jesus into the desert, and then into Jerusalem.

All: **We join in remembering the struggle and the strife of Jesus, who stood up for love, even when it meant persecution and death.**

One: We join in remembering the challenges of the Israelites as they journeyed away from slavery, through the desert, toward a new beginning.

All: We join in remembering and honouring all who would teach us what it means to bear witness to God's love, through action and deed, and to reject the ways of empire.

One: We join in a journey together toward justice, wholeness, and peace. Come, let us welcome this season and this journey as we take our first steps together in this Lenten worship.

CONGREGATION SINGS: "The Wonder of it All" HFG #13 (v.1 & Chorus)

There's the wonder of sunset at evening, the wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul is the wonder that God loves me.
O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all! Just to think that God loves me.
O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all! Just to think that God loves me.

"A Journey with Jesus – Lenten Candle Liturgy"

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (in unison)

O God, Jesus went into the desert wilderness, and we too find ourselves in desert times. Travel with us as we take this journey; walk next to us as we place one foot in front of the other toward a new day; sit with us as we reach into ourselves for the internal resources we need to be your people. May this journey through the Season of Lent be a journey of meaning and purpose. Guide us to a place of vitality and hope, we pray. Amen.

HYMN: #345 "Come, Children, Join to Sing"

TALK TIME:

WE LISTEN & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Deuteronomy 26 (selected verses)

Psalms 91 (#807 – VU)

Luke 4: 1-13

ANTHEM:

SERMON:

HYMN: #115 "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

OFFERTORY:

*We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be;
All that we have in thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.*

(#543 – VU v. 1 – Words: William Walsh How 1858, alt.)

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

Today, we dedicate our thirst to your renewing heart. We dedicate our hunger to understanding the hunger and need around us. We dedicate our fear and vulnerabilities to the promise of God's love and protection. And we dedicate this worship to the journey ahead – a journey toward greater union with our loving God. Amen.

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER:

HYMN: #343 "I Love to Tell the Story"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "In the Quiet Curve of Evening" vU278

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

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

In loving memory of

Dean Ryan

from the Men's Club

In loving memory of Mildred Coles sister

Kay Fiore & cousin ***Edward Best***

from the Coffee Group