

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

“The Church by the Side of the Road”

Fully accessible for people with physical disabilities

“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.”

SCENT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Please be advised that our Church building is a scent free environment and we ask when attending service or any functions here at the Church please refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes, strong scented body washes etc. As these scents affect many people very negatively and can prevent them from participating in the service as well as other functions that take place in our building.

- 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 |
| - Minister: | Rev. Wayne Cole |

**United Church of Canada
Topsail United Church
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020; 10:30 AM
THE GATHERING**

Organ Prelude

Choral Introit: Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul (HFG #657 v. 1 & chorus)

Welcoming & Announcements

THE APPROACH

Call to Worship (responsive)

M: The LORD is Sovereign.

P: **Let the people tremble in awe.**

M: God is enthroned between the cherubim.

P: **Let the earth shake.**

M: The LORD is great in Zion.

P: **God is high above all peoples.**

M: Come let us worship our glorious Lord.

Congregation Sings:

Opening Prayer (unison):

Holy God, who revealed the Messiah on the mountain, fill us with praise, overflowing with cheers and mysterious visions. Light our way; direct our course; and energize us, for we have one more mountain to climb, through Jesus Christ, who is the light. Amen.

HYMN: “Bless this Infant” (William B. Petricko)

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, sent your spirit here today.

THE CELEBRATION OF INFANT BAPTISM

Statement of Purpose:

L: Sisters and Brothers, we are called now to celebrate the gift of grace that is given to us in Baptism.

C: We are one body and one spirit.

We have one hope in God’s call to us.

L: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

C: Out of the water of baptism we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one with Christ, members of Christ’s body.

Presentation of Candidate/s:

Elder: On behalf of the Session of Topsail United Church,
I present to you,

**Ethan Peter Kavanagh, son of Dena & Kenneth
Kavanagh,
Eve Violet Elliott, son of Penney Emma Elliott and
Bradley James Elliott,
and Jackson Robert Stanley Johnson-Brown, son of
Charity Brown & Jonah Johnson.**

Profession of Faith and Promises:

L: Do you desire to have your child baptized?

PARENT/S: We/I do by the grace of God.

L: Will you accept the responsibility of acting
and speaking on your child's behalf?

Will you endeavor to show your child the Christian life
and to grow with him/her in faith?

PARENT/S: We/I do by the grace of God.

Renunciation and Declaration:

L: Desiring the freedom of new life, do you turn away from
the forces of evil and renounce their powers?

PARENT/S: We/I do by the grace of God.

L: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your
Savior and Lord?

PARENT/S: We/I do by the grace of God.

L: Do you commit yourself to the mission
and ministry of Christ Church?

PARENT/S: We/I do by the grace of God.

Congregational Commitment & Profession of Faith:

(Congregation please stand)

L: As a baptized and baptizing church,
Do you commit yourselves
To support and nurture these persons
within a community which worships God,
resists evil and seeks justice?

ALL: We do.

L: Let us now affirm our faith in the words of the New Creed:

ALL:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus,

crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

(Congregation please be seated)

Water is poured audibly and visually

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: Blessed are you, our Creator, Ruler of the universe,
Maker of heaven and earth, Keeper of sky and sea.

At the beginning your Spirit was as work,
brooding over the waters of creation's birth,

Again and again,
you have shown your grace to us as water -
cleansing the earth at the flood,
parting for the exodus at the Red Sea,
flowing from the rock in the wilderness.

C: Blessed are you, our God.

L: Therefore, eternal and present God,
we bless you for the water with which you bless us.
We pray that those who are baptized
into the death and resurrection of Jesus
may live in your grace,
Pour out, O God,
your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water,
that this font may become
your womb of new birth,
our fount of blessing and source of grace.

C: Blessed are you, O God.

L: All glory, praise, honor be to you,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The Act of Baptism

The Blessing

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Congregational Welcome

Presentation of a Gift and Candle

HYMN: “Bless this Infant” (verse 2 – see insert William
B. Petricko)

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 through.

Blessing

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 24: 12-18

(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.)

Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

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

Sermon: “A Mountain Top Experience”

Anthem: I’ve Found the Way (Joe E. Parks)

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn: VU #342 You Servants of God

Minute for Mission: See back cover

Offertory Prayer (unison):

Luminous Giver of all good things, in your presence, everything is gift. Bless these gifts of bread and wine, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, that they may nourish us for the work of healing your creation, in the name of Christ, our light and the light of the world. Amen.

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #701 What Does the Lord Require

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you? Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God. To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. (Words, Music: Jim Strathdee, 1986. Desert Flower Music. Used by permission.)

THE SENDING FORTH

Hymn: VU #289 It Only Takes a Spark

Commissioning: *(In Unison)*

Walk in light and truth. See the light of Christ in every face.
Be the light of Christ to all you meet. **Amen.**

Benediction: *(Minister)*

Choral Benediction: VU #646 *We Are Marching*

Organ Postlude

A Chicken Farm in Kenya

Farmers learn best from one another. The Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) supports farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange through interactive model farms. OAIC is one of our long-standing Mission & Service-funded global partners. The farmer-to-farmer project would not exist without your gifts to Mission & Service.

The model farms in West Pokot, Kenya, give rural farmers opportunities to physically demonstrate and teach each other appropriate technologies and new methods. Depending on what's being tested or showcased,

the demonstration farm could have different types of crops and crop varieties, livestock or poultry breeds, fertilizer treatments, or technology such as drip irrigation.

The practical learning sites have proven popular with the younger generation, who want hands-on involvement in the changes. More primary schools are actively engaged with 4K clubs—clubs that teach children how to grow crops—in Vihiga County, Kenya.

One of OAIC's initiatives is to promote chicken farming to farms that are subject to extreme weather or aren't large enough to raise cattle. Women in particular have taken to raising chickens to boost their household income and also for the eggs, a good source of protein for their families.

Well-presented demonstrations enable farmers to see for themselves how the new technology works; small-scale farmers adopting new methods are taught how to cope with and manage ongoing agricultural challenges, climate change, and food insecurity.

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.