

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

"The Church by the Side of the Road"

Fully accessible for people with physical disabilities

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.

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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 |

Topsail United Church
Sunday, March 1, 2020; 10:30 AM
THE GATHERING

Organ Prelude

Choral Introit: As the Sun with Longer Journey VU #111 (v.1)

Welcoming & Announcements

THE APPROACH

Call to Worship (responsive)

L: Happy are the people whose sins are forgiven!

P: God's forgiveness is poured on them as a healing balm.

L: Happy are the people who place their trust in God.

P: God's presence is their guide and their strength.

L: Come, let us worship the God who forgives and heals us.

P: Let us celebrate God's presence with us each day.

AMEN.

Congregation Sings: Don't Be Afraid MV #90

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,

My love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,

And I have promised, promised to be always near. (X3)

(Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995. Music: John L. Bell, 1995. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

Opening Prayer (unison):

Lord, we are so tempted by everything we see; the glitz and glitter of the world and the get-rich-quick schemes are placed before us. We believe that if we just have enough money, enough friends, enough power, enough safety we will be OK. Show us how foolish we are to place our hope and trust in these things. Give us hearts for loving service in which we will find our strength, our courage, our security, our home.
AMEN.

HYMN: VU #115 Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7
*(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.)*

Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11
(All: Praise be to Christ, the Living Word)

Sermon: “A Crown Without a Cross?”

Anthem: Blessed are those (Linnea Good)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Greeting

L: 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.

Hymn: VU #472 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

(The Call to Confession)

L: 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.

C: **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.

L: Lord, have mercy.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

L: Lord have mercy.

(The Assurance of Forgiveness)

L: 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)

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

Offering and Offertory: 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 Great Thanksgiving)

L: 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.

C: **(Please sing VU #942 *Copyright 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.*)**
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

L: 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:

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

L: 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.

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

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

**C: (Please sing VU #959 Copyright 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.)
Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those that sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever.**

***(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**

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Minute for Mission: See back cover

THE SENDING FORTH

Hymn: VU #112 O God, How We Have Wandered

Commissioning: *(In Unison)*

L: As we travel on this Lenten Journey,

P: **We know that God leads and guides us.**

L: As we travel on this Lenten journey,

P: **We notice the words of Jesus making choices for
life.**

L: As we travel on this Lenten journey,

P: **We dream and work with the Spirit for a world
where peace and harmony are restored. We leave
this place in peace, going in the love of God.**

Amen

Benediction:

L: God has given us a spirit of power and love.

C: **Let us go forth into the world in the power of
God’s Spirit.**

Choral Benediction: To the Desert Jesus Came VU #113
v.1

Organ Postlude

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Supporting Ministers Financially

The Financial Assistance Committee of The United Church of Canada oversees nine funds to support ministry personnel and lay members during times of extraordinary financial hardship, personal or vocational assessment, post-secondary education, and sabbatical leave. Three funds are supported by Mission & Service.

The Support and Advocacy Fund provides financial assistance for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and Two-Spirit ministry personnel who are experiencing difficulties in maintaining employment in the church because of their known or perceived sexual orientation or identity.

The Personnel Emergency Fund provides financial support to a pastoral charge to fulfill their obligation of salary continuance to ministry personnel and congregational designated ministers who are on administrative leave or suspension, as part of a disciplinary process.

The Fund for Survivors of Sexual Misconduct assists with the costs of counselling for two distinct groups. First, ministry personnel who are survivors of sexual abuse are supported to stay in active ministry while participating in therapy. Second, individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct in a United Church context are provided with financial contributions toward the cost of counselling to enhance their healing.

One recent recipient says, “It has been a long journey. I am deeply grateful to The United Church of Canada for caring about victims of sexual abuse. I hope for my own healing and for the healing of others.”

Your gifts to Mission & Service help support ministry personnel, lay individuals, and pastoral charges with important financial assistance during difficult circumstances. 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.