

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

"The Church by the Side of the Road"

Fully accessible for people with physical disabilities

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
Clergy:	Rev. Bruce Kearley
Guest Clergy:	Rev. Scott Parsons
Congregational Designated Minister:	Steven Rogers
Organist:	Beth Cranston
Choir Director:	Andrew Cranston
Choir:	Male Choir
Office Manager:	Lynn Mercer
Caretaker:	Roger Richards

December 8th, 2013
2nd of Advent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! Shalom is the Hebrew word for the healthy wholeness of life that God desires for all creation. The vision of how this peace, justice, and wellness will come into the world can be shocking. Dead stumps send out live shoots. Spirit-led leaders rule for the poor. Hatred and animosity are released. We are invited to turn again to God and live into this vision. (Ecumenical prayer calendar: Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal.)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE

INTROIT: "Prepare The Way of the Lord" (VU #10)

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive – for Advent 2)

One: A man speaks our fearlessly for support of those suffering from AIDS,

All: and we catch a glimpse of John the prophet, fearlessly addressing the crowd on the banks of the Jordan River.

One: A woman proclaims her support for single mothers struggling to bring up their children,

All: and we hear John the prophet speaking out against the injustice of his time.

One: A friend is downhearted because he cannot change patterns of life that are destructive,

All: and there is John the prophet saying, "Take heart! Change is possible, if you turn from the past and realize God is with you."

One: A humble but saintly woman is speaking of her limitations,

All: and we hear John the prophet telling the gathered people, "Jesus is coming; I am not worthy to untie his sandals."

One: Prophet John, the forerunner of Jesus; he has words for us, if we listen. As we worship God, let us listen.

(Written by **David Sparks**, Summerland, B.C., **GATHERING**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2013-2014, page 29. Used with permission.)

CONGREGATION SINGS: (Sing twice, MV #176)

I follow serve and cling to Christ,
Amid our culture's tides and trends,
For here your Name is most revealed,
Majestic Love, and best of friends.

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (in unison)

We live in a world where peace seems like a distant dream, O God. And we pray – not just for the absence of violence and conflict, but for the deep peace of knowing and trusting your will and your way. As the darkness and coldness of December set in, we trust that the light and the warmth of your Holy Spirit will enfold us and remind us of the shalom that is to come and the shalom that is already within us. Amen.

(Written by **Larry Doyle, Bob Root and Darrow Woods**, Contemplative Liturgy Group, Eastern Ontario. **GATHERING**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2013-2014, page 30. Used with permission.)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ALL SING: (#6 VU "A Candle is Burning" vs. 2)

***A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.***

HYMN: #2 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

TALK TIME

MEMORIAL GIFT PRESENTATION

One: Let us pray. Giver of all good gifts, it is by your power that all things are made holy. We give you thanks for your marvelous wonders, and for

the work of human hands to provide instruments for use in time of need.
Be with us now as we receive this memorial. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL

Donors: In memory of *Mrs. Lorraine Parsons* and *Mrs. Una Youden* we present this memorial gift to Topsail United Church.

One: We received this gift in thanksgiving and in remembrance of *Mrs. Lorraine Parsons* and *Mrs. Una Youden*.

One: Let us pray. Creator God, source of all inspiration, we thank you for this memorial gift to be available as means of safety for all who enter our church. Bless us as a community of faith as we seek to serve you in thought, word and deed. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Micah 6: 1-6

Matthew 25: 31-40

ANTHEM: "The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy" (VU #73)

SERMON: "Waiting with God"

HYMN: #664 "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERTORY:

Joyful, joyful we adore you God of glory life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away,
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (In unison – Seasons of the Spirit)

Almighty and All-loving One, we lift up today our thanks to you. Can we ever catalogue all the ways you have blessed our lives? More than counting, you want from us our lives, our love, our time and our talents. We dedicate those to you today. Take our very best, may it help bring about peace on your holy mountain. With gratitude and anticipation we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #672 “Take Time to Be Holy”

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “I Am Walking A Path of Peace” (MV #173)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Today’s bulletin has been dedicated to the glory of God and donated

†††

In loving memory of

Arthur Reid

by grandchildren Sarah & Laura, Reed & Aaron, Philip, Charlotte & Susanna

In loving memory of father

Ben Roper

from Doreen and family

In loving memory of wonderful father

Augustus (Gus) Eveleigh

from wife Georgina, daughter Rosalind and family

In loving memory of a dear grandmother and great grandmother

Eleanor Pelley

forever in our hearts by Jason, Tonya, Alex and Avery Pelley
