

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
December 24th, 2013
Christmas Eve - 8:00 p.m.

Stand silent for a moment, you'll hear a baby cry,
And angels helping Mary sing her gentle lullaby;
With voices soft as music that babies understand,
Young Mary's gentle lullaby takes Him to slumberland.

*Sleep, my precious baby, sleep,
Among the cattle, goats and sheep;
With just a manger to lie in,
The day will come you'll be a king.*
(Lyrics: Wince Coles)

WELCOME & BLESSINGS
ON THIS NIGHT OF LIGHT AND JOY!

ORGAN PRELUDE:

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #60 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive – Seasons of the Spirit)

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows – light! sunbursts of light!

All: **For a child has been born – for us! the gift of a son – for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counsellor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness.**

One: Let us worship the newborn King!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE
(Blanche and Ray Rodgers)

ALL SING: (#6 VU - verse 5 - "A Candle is Burning")

**We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

CAROL: #38 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (in unison – Seasons of the Spirit)

Amazing God, with hearts and minds and the depth of our being, we praise you. We sing with joy and gratitude for gifts of peace, hope, joy, love, and for the Christ, light and life for all. Amen.

CAROL: #64 "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2: 1 - 20 (The Christmas Story)
(Rev. Pearce Penney)

ANTHEM: "The Newborn"

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER:

OFFERING & DEDICATION:

**Praise God with songs that never cease,
Praise God who fills the Earth with peace.
Praise God for love and joy within,
the Holy child is born again.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Gifted by your grace, we offer what you have given to us, O God, and pray that these gifts may be used for the sharing of your love, the doing of justice, and the giving of peace. Amen.

(Written by Jack Ballantine-Dickson, Morris U.C., Morris, Man. **GATHERING,** Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2013-2014, page 36. Used with permission.)

SOLO: Jeff Stentafor, euphonium

SERMON: "Welcome The Light"

ANTHEM: "Gloria, Gloria, Gloria Deo"

CAROL: #67 "Silent Night" (lights are dimmed)

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH:

CHRISTMAS VESPERS:

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

ORGAN POSTLUDE:

OFFICE CLOSED: The office will close December 24th and reopen on January 2nd. Donations for credit to 2013 year can be made until January 6th.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

