

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

“The Church by the Side of the Road”

December 24th, 2013, 6:00pm

MUSICAL PRELUDE:

(Brett Vey, Steven Rogers)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

(responsive – congregational responses in bold)

We come into this church thankful for Joseph and for his willingness to venture to Bethlehem with Mary.

The courage of Joseph is a light to us this Christmas Eve.

We come to this church thankful for Mary, who took responsibility for bringing Jesus to birth.

The commitment of Mary is a light to us this Christmas Eve.

We come to this church thankful for shepherds, angels, and Magi, who responded with joy to Jesus' birth.

Their stories – which are shared through our readings and carols – are a light to us this Christmas Eve.

We come to this church thankful to the saints, who have faithfully celebrated the birth of Jesus down the ages.

The faithfulness of God's people is a light to us this Christmas Eve.

We come to this church thankful for God's chosen child whose birth story we hear and whose life story changes our lives.

Jesus is the light of our lives this Christmas Eve and throughout the year.

CAROL: #69 “Away in a Manger”

A CHRISTMAS EVE WELCOME

SOLOIST: “Hark! The Herald Angel Sing”

(Ashley Howe)

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

CONGREGATION SINGS:

Light the Christmas Candles now, sing of donkey, sheep and cow,
Birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring
Filled with wonder at the sight, of the child on Christmas night.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the winter night,
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the winter night.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2: 1-7 (Sarah Soper)

CAROL: #60 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (Verses 1 & 2)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2: 8-20 (Emily Howe)

CAROL: #60 "O Come All Ye Faithful" (V. 3,4,5)

OFFERING: "O Holy Night" (Erin Burt)

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (unison)

Motherly and Fatherly God, as Joseph followed where you commanded, let us also be faithful with our lives and resources. Accept these gifts offered in Jesus name. Accept our lives offered in response to his love. We pray that these gifts may be used for the doing of justice, and the giving of peace. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION: "Would We Have Eyes to See?"

CHRISTMAS LITANY: (insert – responsive)

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

LITURGICAL DANCE:

MUSICAL PRESENTATION: "Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child"

CAROL: #43 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

ALL: The Child is born! May our hearts be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. May we hear in our hearts the news of angels, and ponder the miracle of this night. We go forth as people of the light knowing we are not alone. God is with us. Thanks be to God!

ONE: Go in peace, into this holy night, a time of wonder and hope. Go, believing that good will prevail! Go, believing that you are treasured! Go and tell the world that love returns again! Amen.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE: