

## 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

[www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](http://www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)

Office Telephone: 834-4567, Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9-1 Fax: 834-6200

### "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**
- **Congregational Designated Minister:** **Steven Rogers**
- **Organist:** **Beth Cranston**
- **Choir Director:** **Andrew Cranston**
- **Choir:** **Mixed Choir**
- **Office Manager:** **Lynn Mercer**
- **Caretaker:** **Roger Richards**

*January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> after Epiphany*

### SERVICE NOTE

**WELCOME!** Life presents us with many choices. Oftentimes we are overwhelmed by these decision points because we are uncertain about the right answer, or we regret having to give up options by picking one decision path. At the same time, hinge points created by God present us with a gift, offering moments for defining decisions and shining a clarifying light on our path. (Ecumenical prayer calendar: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden.)

### **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

#### THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

#### INTROIT:

#### CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive – Seasons of the spirit))

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: For those who live in a land of deep shadows – light! sunbursts of light!**

One: You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy;

**All: Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy.**

One: Come, let us worship God. (From Isaiah 9:2 –3: The Message)

#### CONGREGATION SINGS: (Sing twice)

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

#### WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

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

Gracious God, speak to our lives this day. Order our paths. Call us again to follow the light and the stronghold of our lives. Amen.

**HYMN:** #642 "Be Thou My vision"

## TALK TIME:

### **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (in unison – Seasons of the Spirit – adapted.)

Gracious God, we rush to and fro...but do we seek your face? We wait...but do we wait for your word to speak to our lives? We ask and inquire...but do we pursue your presence? We make sacrifices...but do we make them to praise you? We sing...but do we sing with joy? We often rush to and fro in confusion and in fear, without aim or direction, responding to the most immediate demand for our attention. Call us again to seek your face and follow the Christ. Amen.

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

Isaiah 9: 1-4 (The people have seen a great light.)

Psalms 27 (#754 – God is my light and my salvation.)

Matthew 4: 12-23 (Jesus begins his ministry.)

#### **ANTHEM:**

#### **SERMON:**

**HYMN:** #506 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

#### **MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

#### **OFFERTORY**

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,  
And some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER:**

**HYMN:** #356 "Seek Ye First"

#### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

#### **CHORAL BENEDICTION:**

#### **MUSICAL POSTLUDE:**

### **TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

†††

*In memory of a wonderful & loving*

*Father & Grandfather*

**Lorne C. Snell**

*your smile will never be forgotten*

*Wanda Saunders & family*