

## TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

*"The Church by the Side of the Road"*

P.O. Box 13010, Station Topsail, Conception Bay South, NL, A1W 2K1

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

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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."

- <b>Ministers:</b>	<b>The Congregation</b>
- <b>Clergy:</b>	<b>Rev. Bruce Kearley</b>
- <b>Congregational Designated Minister:</b>	<b>Steven Rogers</b>
- <b>Organist:</b>	<b>Beth Cranston</b>
- <b>Choir Director:</b>	<b>Andrew Cranston</b>
- <b>Choir:</b>	<b>Mixed Choir</b>
- <b>Office Manager:</b>	<b>Nicole Ivey-Cross</b>
- <b>Caretaker:</b>	<b>Roger Richards</b>

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*December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

*2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent*

### SERVICE NOTE

**WELCOME!** On this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent we reflect on Zechariah's song of praise and prophecy as he blesses his son, John, cascades into promises of hope for the people. The anticipated ministry of John recalls the prophecy of Malachi, and looks forward to God's reign of righteousness and peace.

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

#### THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:

**INTROIT:** "There's a voice in the Wilderness" (VU18)

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive)

One: Arise, O people of God, stand upon the height. From the east and the west we have gathered at the word of the Holy One.

**All: We rejoice that God has remembered us.**

One: Praise God who has ordered every high mountain and the everlasting hills to be made low, and the valleys filled up.

**All: So that all God's people may walk safely in the glory of God.**

One: For God leads us with joy in the light of God's glory, with mercy and righteousness.

**All: Let us worship God with joy. Let us worship and sing praise!**

One: Let us worship God!

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

### CONGREGATION SINGS:

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.

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

#### OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

Holy God, we have a job to do this Advent season. You call us to prepare the way, as you called the prophets of old. You are doing a new thing through us. Like a refiner's fire that destroys the old so that the new may shine through, refine us and give us courage – courage to be messengers of justice and righteousness, and courage to be bearers of grace and light. Ignite a fire within us so that we may carry that light in the world. Amen!

**HYMN: #20** "On Jordan's Bank"

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

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

Malachi 3: 1-4 (A refiner's fire and launderer's soap)  
Luke 1: 68-79 (#900 – Song Zechariah)  
Luke 3: 1-6 (A voice calling in the desert)

**HYMN: #29** "Hark the Glad Sound"

**SERMON:** "Prepare the Way"

#### 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)

God of abundance and grace, we offer these gifts as a sign of gratefulness for all that you have done in our lives. Like a refiner's fire you are constantly at work in us. We offer our very selves to you and ask that you use us to be your hands and feet and voice in our communities and in the world – proclaiming your righteousness throughout the world.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**AHTHEM:** “She Walked in the Summer” (VU12)

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

**CONFESSION:** (in unison)

Gracious God, as we continue our faith journey this season, we recognize that sometimes it's hard to see the bigger picture of what you call us to do. The world we know beckons us to follow something other than your way. We often ignore the path that you have put before us and are silent when we should speak. We stand still when we should be going out to proclaim your word. We shut our eyes to the needs that are all around us. We doubt the strength within ourselves to turn away from the world's ways and follow you. Forgive us, God and help us find our voice and open our eyes so we may serve you better.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSIONS**

**BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** (#959 - sung)

*(The Bread is broken & The Cup is lifted)  
(Communion is shared)*

**HYMN:** #31 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** “Prepare the Way of the Lord” (VU10)

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE:**

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

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*In loving memory of*  
**Ben Roper**  
*from Doreen, Ken & Family*

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