

# **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**

**Office Manager:**

**Lynn Mercer**

**Caretaker:**

**Roger Richards**

**Youth Band Director:**

**Brett Vey**

**Vocal Director:**

**Rosalind Foley**

**Musical Ensembles:**

**Children’s Choir, Youth Band  
Rhythm Band**

***February 15, 2015***

## **SERVICE NOTE**

***WELCOME!*** *February is Black History Month in Canada. The origin of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson (an African-American historian) proposed a Negro History Week for the second week of February. The initial proposal came at a time when Black peoples were legally segregated, exploited, and treated as sub-human. In 1976, the week evolved into the full month of February becoming Black History Month. Black History Month is now a time to honour and celebrate the historical and present contributions of peoples of African descent. It is also a time to remember the struggles from which Black peoples came and the continued legacy of the Transatlantic Trade in Africans.*

***WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE***

**THE MUSICAL PRELUDE:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsive)

One: God, you taught our ancestors to sing with their souls while in a foreign land.

**All: Through music, you taught peoples of the world, with different shades of skin, to persevere and trust in you, even as their hearts and bodies were broken.**

One: Your power God, moved through our ancestors, as the rhythm and cadence of music moves through our bodies.

**All: There would be no Underground Railroad or Civil Rights Movement without a song, and there would be no song without you. Let everything that has breath, praise you!**

**INTROIT:** "You Are the Salt of the Earth"

**REFLECTION:** The 1600s

Slavery existed in Canada, as it existed in colonies throughout the world. The first documented slave in Canada was named by their master Olivier Le Jeune in 1628. (However, there are reports of slave ships arriving in the early 1600s.) Many of the documented slaves in Canada were "owned" by clergy. It was not until the late 1700s that talks of abolishing slavery started in Upper Canada. While auction blocks were being built to sell people, the church sang its hymns.

**HYMN:** #690 "From the Slave Pens of the Delta"

**WORDS OF WELCOME | CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:**

**HYMN:** #256 "O God Beyond All Praising" (v. 1 &2)

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

One: Let us celebrate the gift of grace given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism.

**All: There is one body and one spirit; we have one hope in Christ.**

One: There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

**All: Out of the waters of Baptism, we rise with new life, forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.**

## INTRODUCTION & VOWS

One: Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

All: **As a Baptized and Baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** The Creed - #918 Voices United

## THE BAPTISM

**HYMN:** #256 “O God Beyond All Praising” (v. 3)

**TALK TIME:** “The Freedom Quilt”

**REFLECTION:** The 1700s

During the late 1700s promises of freedom and land in exchange for British loyalty brought many freed Blacks to Nova Scotia. Although no longer slaves, the Black community was oppressed and denied basic civil and human rights. As a result, there was a mini exodus in the late 1700s when Black Loyalist and Black Refugees (the Maroons) took the offer to resettle in Sierra Leone. Although the church often attempted to preach a “thin” Bible to Black peoples, focusing on servitude and honouring your master, the power of the gospel shone through the hymns of liberation and love, offering hope and empowerment to an enslaved people.

**ANTHEM:** “Turning of the World”

**PRAYER:** #616 (unison)

**REFLECTION:** The 1800s

In the early 1800s, Canada and the northern part of the United States gained a reputation for being a safe haven for the enslaved. Seeking freedom, many enslaved peoples travelled secretly to Canada through a concealed network known as the Underground Railroad. Many churches and Quaker meeting houses became “stations” on the route to freedom. There is much mythology on how people communicated with each other between these “stations.” Since music and spirituals were often used in Black communities to counter the theologies being preached,

music seemed like the perfect way to convey messages of freedom, as music was (and remains) a primary form of communication.

**MUSICAL PRESENTATION:** "Love Rescue Me"

**REFLECTION:** The 1900s

Long after slavery was abolished (in 1833 in the British Empire and in 1865 in the United States), life remained difficult for Black people across North America. In the 1950s and 1960s, the fight for civil rights intensified. Several iconic moments included: Viola Desmond refusing to sit in the Black only section of the movie theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; Rosa Parks refusing to sit at the back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama; the three civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery; and the demolition of Africville in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that resulted in the forced relocation of the historic Black community. Many churches joined in the movement, while many others went about their daily business warning activists to slow down and to temper their voices.

**HYMN:** #677 "O God of Every Nation"

**OFFERTORY**

**PRAYER**

**RELFECTION:** The 2000s

**HYMN:** #600 "When I Needed A Neighbour"

**BENEDICTION:**

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE:** "When the Roses Bloom Again"

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

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

*In loving memory of*  
**Jane Brown, Marsha and Alex Butler**  
*by Barbara*



**GOD BLESS THE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Today we are pleased to welcome into membership of our  
Church family, through The Sacrament of Baptism;*

**Janna Vivian Green**

*daughter of Kerry & Robert Green of CBS, NL.*

**Charlotte Heather Rosemary Evans-King**

*daughter of Laura Evans & Andrew King of CBS, NL.*

**Emersyn Madelyn Moores**

*daughter of Tonya & Bradley Moores of CBS, NL.*