

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

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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."

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ministers: | The Congregation |
| Youth Program Coordinator: | Brett Vey |
| Organist: | Beth Cranston |
| Choir Director: | Andrew Cranston |
| Choir: | Men's Choir |
| Office Manager: | Jacqueline Kennedy |
| Caretaker: | Roger Richards |
| Clergy: | Rev. Bruce Kearley |

December 9th, 2018

2nd of Advent

SERVICE NOTE

WELCOME! On this 2nd 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:

WORDS OF WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK:

INTROIT: "Born in the Night, Mary's Child" (VU#95)

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. Let us worship God with joy.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

(Written by Don Stiles, Seeley's Bay UC., Seeley's Bay, Ont. *Gathering*, Advent.Christmas.Epiphany 2018-2019, p.70. Used with permission)

CONGREGATION SINGS:

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

(Words © 1986 Sandra Dean, 1134 Plant Dry. Ottawa, ON K1V 9E8. Music: James R. Murray)

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (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: #2 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

TALK TIME:

WE LISTEN & RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING:

Malachi 3: 1-4

Responsive Reading (VU 900 – based on Luke 1: 68-79)

Luke 3: (selected verses)

ANTHEM: "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" (Adger M. Pace & R. Fischer Boyce)

SERMON: "*Prepare the Way*"

HYMN: #20 "On Jordan's Bank"

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.

Words: Henry Van Dyke 1907. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824. Adapted by Edward Hodges. Descant: © 1979 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

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.

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER:

HYMN: #18 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "I am Walking a Path (of Peace) (MV 221)

MUSICAL POSTLUDE:

Today's bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God and donated.

In loving memory of

Ed LeGrow Sr.

from The Men's Club

In loving memory of

Augustus (Gus) & Georgina Eveleigh

forever loved and missed
from Rosalind, Ben & family

In loving memory and thanksgiving for the life of

Tena Palmer

from Lynn, Verda, Ruth & families

In loving memory of parents

Jack & Alice Miller

from Joan & Roland Regular

In loving memory of

Ben

from Barbara