

## TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH

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

Fully Accessible; Scent-Free Environment

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

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

Office Phone: 834-4567 Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30-1:30

*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
Youth Program Coordinator:	Brett Vey
Organist:	Beth Cranston
Choir Director:	Andrew Cranston
Office Manager:	Elizabeth Joy
Custodian:	Leona Laundry
Clergy:	Rev Kathy Brett

---

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

2nd of Advent

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**MUSICAL PRELUDE:** VU #883 Comfort, Comfort Now My People (Isaiah 40) *(Music: Louis Bourgeois 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel 1564.)*

### WELCOME & SHARING TIME

**INTROIT:** VU #1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v.2) *(Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca. 9th century, trans. John Mason Neale 1851, et al. Copyright The Church Pension Fund; Music: 15th century plainsong melody, arr. by Healey Willan 1880-1968.)*

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come into this place, away from the confusion and haste.

**We come to experience solace and peace of mind.**

We come in this Advent season, to wait for the Christ Child to be born in our lives.

**Jesus is our Prince of Peace.**

Because of God's gift to us, we can experience peace in our lives. So in gratitude let us worship.

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

**Reader:** Last week we lit the candle of hope; we relight it, as a sign of our desire for healing and wholeness for our whole world. *(First blue candle is relit.)*

**Reader:** The second candle we light is the candle of peace. It represents our longing for peace and comfort in the world and in our hearts.

**Reader:** We light this candle and may its light remind us of the gift of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Jesus came among us and taught us how to share God's peace. *(Second blue candle is lit.)*

**Reader:** Let us pray together the International Peace Prayer:

**All:** Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.

**SUNG RESPONSE:** VU #6 (v.2) A Candle Is Burning *(Words: © 1986 Sandra Dean, 1134 Plant Dr., Ottawa, ON K1V 9E8. Music: James R. Murray.)*

### OPENING PRAYER

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

### THE PEACE:

May the everlasting peace of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**HYMN:** VU #79 Arise, Your Light Has Come *(Words: Ruth Duck, 1974; Music: William H. Walker 1872; desc. Diana McLeod 1995.)*

### WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:** (unison)

**O God, there are times when we feel lost, not knowing who we are or what direction you would have us live our lives. We long to again know your love and have your joy as our strength. Touch us again. Touch us again with your word. Give us meaning so deep it floods our souls. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 40:1-11

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 85, VU #802 *(Hal H. Hopson, 1988)*

Once you were gracious to your land, O God,  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob;

**you forgave the offence of all your people,**

**and pardoned all their sin.**

You drew back all your displeasure,  
and turned from your fiery wrath.

**Restore us again, God our Saviour,  
and put away your just anger toward us.**

Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your wrath to all generations?

**Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

Refrain: **God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.**

Let me hear what you will say, O God,  
for you will speak peace to your people,  
to the faithful who turn their hearts to you.

**Surely salvation is near those who fear you,  
and your glory will dwell in our land.**

Mercy and faithfulness will meet,  
justice and peace will embrace.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness look down from heaven.**

You, O God, will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its harvest.

**Righteousness will go before you,  
and the paths of your feet will be peace.**

Refrain: **God, show us your love, show us your love and mercy.**

**GOSPEL READING:** Mark 1:1-8

**REFLECTION**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Waiting for a King *(Words: J. Paul Williams; Music: Joseph M. Martin.)*

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

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** VU #7 (v.2) Hope Is A Star *(Words: Brian Wren 1985 Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987. Words, Music: © 1989. Hope Publishing Company)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (unison)

**As we prepare, O God, for the festival of Christ's birth, help us to give in expectation of his return. May our gifts be used to prepare the world for Christ's coming, when all creation shall sing your praise. Amen.**

### **WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION:**

Blessed are those who seek the tree of life.

**Blessed are those who enter by the gates of justice.**

Blessed is the root of Jesse and the child of Mary.

**Blessed is the bright morning star.**

Let all who hunger come.

**Let everyone who is thirsty come.**

Blessed be the Advent of Days, blessed is the Beloved, and blessed be the Spirit.

**From everlasting to everlasting we come.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

May God come more fully into our lives.

**May this be so.**

Let us offer our lives for transformation.

**In hope and joy, we offer ourselves.**

In thanksgiving, let us celebrate Christ in our midst.

**We welcome the Christ who lives within and between us.**

Blessed are you... the Advent prayer of all your people:

**O Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

And as we wait and watch for your coming, we proclaim your promise as we sing:

VU #29 Hark the Glad Sound vs. 1 & 4 *(Words: Philip Doddridge 1738, 11t; Music: Thomas Haweis 1792; adapt. Samuel Webbe 1808; desc. John Wilson)*

***Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.***

***Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.***

Let us remember... Jesus lives within us.

**In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.**

**In this way we remember Christ's death, we proclaim his resurrection, and we await his coming again.**

**Come, Lord Jesus!**  
Holy God... now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** (sung to the tune of It Came Upon A Midnight Clear)

***Our Father, Lord on Heav'n's high throne,  
Most holy be Your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done  
On earth-in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need;  
Forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead;  
From evil set us free.***

***Yours is the kingdom; unto You  
In grateful love we bow;  
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view  
Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung  
By angel hosts and men  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue  
Forevermore! Amen.***

**BREAKING THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** (unison)

**Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your advent among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN:** HFG #681 Let There Be Peace On Earth (Sy Miller & Jill Jackson)

***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.  
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.***

***With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.***

**BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**SUNG BLESSING:** MV #221 I am Walking a Path of Peace (X2) (Words & Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier. Canmore, AB. Used by permission.)

***I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
Lead me home, lead me home.***

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE:** VU #964 Go Now In Peace (Words & Music copyright 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc..) with Go Now In Peace (Words & Music by Don Besig & Nancy Price)

**IN MEMORIAM**

***Today's bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of:***

**Parents Alice & Jack Miller, Sister Eloise Miller and  
Grandparents Sarah & John Miller  
*From Joan & Roland Regular***

**Father, Ben Roper  
*from Doreen & Ken Cave***

**Augustus (Gus) & Georgina Eveleigh  
*Forever loved by Ben, Rosalind, Charmaine, Jennifer and Family***



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Next Sunday, Advent 3 is the Sunday of Joy. Given the difficult year this has been, let's make an effort to brighten the season by dressing up next week in 'pretty Christmas sweaters', 'ugly Christmas sweaters' or 'pretty ugly Christmas sweaters' or Christmas ties.

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December 13:** Advent 3 Joy 10:30 in-person and on-line  
Dress in Christmas sweaters and ties

**December 20:** Advent 4 Love 10:30 on-line only  
Family Sunday featuring a Virtual Pageant presented by Christian and Youth of the Congregation

**December 21:** Longest Night Service (Blue Christmas) 7:00 pm. On-line  
Presented by United Church Clergy of St. John's and area

**December 24:** Christmas Eve 4:00 pm in-person and on-line  
Christmas Eve 8:00 pm in-person and on-line (with sacrament of Holy Communion)

\* Please note some consideration is being given for an outdoor service on Christmas Eve, notice will be given if this is able to take place

**December 27:** Christmas 1 Christmas Carol Service on-line only

If you or someone you know, would like a visit from Reverend Kathy, please contact the church office: Telephone: 834-4567 or 480-0376  
Email: [minister@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](mailto:minister@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net) or [kathy.brett101@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.brett101@gmail.com)

### Christmas in Memoriam Dedications

If you wish to make a bulletin dedication for Christmas Eve, please put it in writing & place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the

church office or email it to: [office@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](mailto:office@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net) by noon Friday, December 11.

### Church Calendars

The 2021 church calendars are available now at a cost of \$5.00 each. If you are interested in having one, please contact the church office.

### Christmas "Hamper" Donations

In the past the CBS/Paradise Food Bank has distributed over 400 hampers in the form of Gift Cards for food for Christmas. This year we are expecting an increase in need.

A single person receives \$50 Gift Card, a family of 2-3 receives \$75 Gift Card and a family of 4 or more receives \$100 Gift Card. Please donate as you are able, every bit helps and is gratefully appreciated. Donations will be received up until Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021.

To request a Christmas Hamper in the CBS/Paradise area, please contact the CBS/Paradise Food Bank at 834-2800 by December 4<sup>th</sup>. Distribution of the Christmas "Hamper" Gift Cards will be December 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Food Bank will be closed December 19<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you wish to make a donation, you can use a regular envelope, just indicate the amount is for "Food Bank Christmas" and drop it in the offering plate or at the church office. All donations will be credited to your name or envelope number. Thank you.

### Stella's Circle - Christmas Wish List Items/Gifts

Please consider (as you are able) donating an item - **new items only please**. If you have any questions, please contact: Cathy White by telephone at 738-7730 or by email: [c.white@StellasCircle.ca](mailto:c.white@StellasCircle.ca); Website: [StellasCircle.ca](http://StellasCircle.ca)