

# 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)

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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."

- **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**
- **Minister:** **Rev. Wayne Cole**

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**United Church of Canada**

**Topsail United Church**

**Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020; 10:30 AM**

**THE GATHERING**

**Organ Prelude**

**Choral Introit: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus VU #357 (v. 1)**

**Welcoming & Announcements**

## **THE APPROACH**

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

**L:** Welcome to worship this day!

**P:** **We have come seeking God's blessings and love.**

**L:** They shall be given to you.

**P:** **We have come seeking forgiveness and healing.**

**L:** These will be offered to you. Open your hearts to receive God's Good News.

**P:** **We open our hearts to all of God's words and ways for us. AMEN.**

**Congregation Sings: Jesus Loves Me VU #365 (v. 1)**

Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to him belong, in his love we shall be strong.  
Yes, Jesus Loves me! Yes, Jesus Loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.

*(Words (v 1): Anna Bartlett Warner. Words (v 2 and 3): © Cherie McGuire, 87 Cardinal Cres., Chatham, ON N7L 3V4. Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1862.)*

**Opening Prayer (unison):**

Welcoming God, you have called us to rejoice at a baby's new birth, to celebrate at the milestones in one another's lives, and to come alongside each other through the various passages of life. You are with us in all the circumstances of life. You rejoice as we revel in joy and mourn as we grieve in sadness. We are comforted and assured by that awareness. In the name of the welcoming Christ, we pray. **Amen**

**Hymn: Fairest Lord Jesus VU #341**

**Time with the Youth**

**Prayer of Confession (unison):**

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**Words of Assurance: (Minister)**

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord.  
**AMEN.**

**THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED**

## Scripture Readings:

**Psalm:** 29 (VU page 756)

*(All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.*

*Amen.*

*All: Thanks be to God.)*

**Hebrew Scripture:** Isaiah 42: 1-9

*(Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

*All: Thanks be to God.)*

**Gospel:** Matthew 3: 13-17

*(All: Praise be to Christ, the Living Word)*

**Sermon:** "Invitations Sometimes Go Astray"

**Anthem:** While Passing A Garden

## THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**Hymn:** When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized VU #100

**Minute for Mission:** See back cover

**Offertory Prayer (unison):**

Humbly we come, o God, offering gifts out of love. You have blessed us with the gift of your Son. Bless us now that we may use these gifts, and ourselves, to follow the path Jesus trod, to become faithful disciples, Spirit-led and Jesus-called. Amen.

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn:** What Does the Lord Require VU #701

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require  
of you?

Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

*(Words, Music: Jim Strathdee, 1986. Desert Flower Music. Used by permission.)*

## Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

### THE SENDING FORTH

**Hymn:** Shall We Gather at the River VU #710

**Commissioning:** (*In Unison*)

Let us go forth joyfully. God is with us. God brings us peace and hope, let us share it with all we meet, and may God's eternal love shine through us. **Amen.**

**Benediction:** (*Minister*)

**Choral Benediction:** His Name Is Wonderful HFG #230

**Organ Postlude**

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## Minute For Mission - Holding Space for Life

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries to hold space for those who otherwise would be lost and unknown.

A simple candle is lit in the chapel at First United Church in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. The gathering on unceded Coast Salish traditional territory is acknowledged. We honour a community member who has died from drug poisoning. There have been too many.

People in our neighborhood have come for many reasons. In spite of living on or below poverty incomes, in inadequate housing or rough on the street, they have made this community their home. In a relatively small footprint of land, people know and care deeply for one another. Today the church opens its doors to hold space for affirming life.

Across Canada, more than 12,800 opioid-related deaths occurred between January 2016 and March 2019. Eighty-two percent of accidental opioid-related deaths involved fentanyl or fentanyl analogues. Likely every church and community that reads this Minute for Mission has been affected by drug poisoning. Vancouver's inner

city has been profoundly shaken by this pandemic. Public education, access to harm reduction supplies, and safe consumption sites have begun to slowly reduce the numbers. We advocate for change in drug policy, increased housing, easier access to treatment facilities, and more supports for those who struggle with mental illness.

On this day we honour a person much loved in the community. Your support for Mission & Service allows First United and other community ministries to continue a ministry of seeking justice and holding space for life.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.