

# **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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- **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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**Topsail United Church**  
**Sunday, March 8, 2020; 10:30 AM**  
**THE GATHERING**

**Organ Prelude:**

**Choral Introit:** Breathe on Me Breath of God VU # 382, v.  
1&2

**Welcoming & Announcements**

## **THE APPROACH**

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

**M:** Come, all who need help!

**P:** **Our help comes from God, the one who made  
heaven and earth.**

**M:** Come, all who desire blessing!

**P:** **Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham,  
the God of the ages.**

**M:** Come, all who long for salvation!

**P:** **Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one  
sent by God to save the world.**

**Congregation Sings:** Don't Be Afraid MV #90

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger  
than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, and I  
have promised, promised to be always near. (X3) (Words: John  
L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995. Music: John L. Bell, 1995. All rights reserved.

Used by permission.)

**Opening Prayer (unison):** God of the ages, we come into this holy space asking for your blessing, only to find that the abundance of your love is already around us. Open our eyes to see the blessing of your creation in the beauty all around us. Open our ears to hear the blessing of your word as it is proclaimed in story and song this day. Open our hearts to experience the blessing of faith through the gentle touch of a friend or the supportive smile of a stranger. And open our doors, that we may become vessels of your blessing to a world still in need of salvation. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED**

### **Scripture Readings:**

**Gospel:** John 3: 1-17

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

**Anthem:** Lord, Don't Move the Mountain (words Doris Akers  
music Mahalia Jackson)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**OFFERTORY:** 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.)*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:** (in unison)

Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. Amen.

## **THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Minute for Mission:** See back of bulletin.

## **THE SENDING FORTH**

**Hymn:** Jesus Calls Us VU#562

**Grace:**

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

M: As we go forth from this time of worship, our loving and Compassionate God is with us.

**P: As we become aware of our need to change, God supports us.**

M: As we find courage to walk the faithful path, God journeys with us.

**P: When we are tempted to turn back, God renews our vision.**

M: When we joyfully follow the way of Jesus, God celebrates with us!

**P: As we make this Lenten journey, God's courage and peace will be ours! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Choral Benediction:** To the Desert Jesus Came VU# 113, v.2

**IN MEMORIAM**

Kaiden Leonard Little

Paul Hamlyn

Helen Nixon

Allan Andrew Grandy

Geraldine Butler

Ruby Florence Mercer

William George Noftall

Olive Walsh

Gary Charles Eavis

Roy Stockley

**SCENT FREE ENVIRONMENT**

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

Please be advised that our Church building is a scent free environment and we ask when attending service or any functions here at the Church please refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes, strong scented body washes etc. As these scents affect many people very negatively and can prevent them from participating in the service as well as other functions that take place in our building.

# MINUTE FOR MISSION

## A Tiny Baby

*The chaplains of Michael Garron Hospital in Toronto have to respond to many situations. Here is one story from a United Church chaplaincy student about her time in the pediatrics ward:*

I remember the first time I saw her. I had to put on a gown, mask, and gloves to go into her room. This tiny baby, hooked up to so many tubes, smiled up at me. She had so much trust in her eyes for a baby who had been abandoned by her parents. She'd had two heart surgeries and was now recovering. Each day she grew stronger, and soon most of the tubes had been removed and we no longer needed to mask and gown. What she needed most was human contact, so I would spend time each day holding her, talking to her, and watching her smile and coo. When she was three months old, her parents came back to reunite with her. They had many meetings with social workers, and I was included in those conversations. Her parents had been refugees who came to this country with their seven children; when the baby was born with Down's syndrome and many health problems, they panicked and left her at the hospital to be cared for. When the day came for this tiny, beautiful baby to leave with her parents, staff said goodbye to her, and many of them were in tears. After she left the hospital, we sat around and shared stories and grieved together. It was a very profound moment in my ministry.

Mission & Service supports chaplaincy in hospitals, universities, and prisons.

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.

