

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

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:

Youth Program Coordinator:

Organist:

Choir Director:

Office Manager:

Custodian:

Clergy:

The Congregation

Brett Vey

Beth Cranston

Andrew Cranston

Elizabeth Joy

Leona Laundry

Rev Kathy Brett

November 29th, 2020

1st of Advent

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

MUSICAL PRELUDE: VU #68 All Poor Ones *(Music: Welsh Carol, harm. Erik Routley 1951)*

VU #9 People Look East *(Music: French folk melody, harm. Martin Fallas Shaw 1928)*

INTROIT: VU #1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v.1) *(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.)*

WELCOME & SHARING TIME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come, longing for a new world and new way.

Jesus is our hope for a new life.

We come, because God's promises are true.

Jesus is our hope for truth.

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

Jesus is our hope for new hearts.

Because of God's gift to us, we have hope, let us worship with sincerity.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

Reader: Today is the first Sunday in the Season of Advent. Advent means "coming," and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. This Advent wreath and the lighting of its candles to remind us the gifts Jesus brings to the world.

Reader: The first candle we light is the candle of hope. It represents the longing of the ages for a better life.

Reader: We light this candle and may its light remind us that Jesus, God's gift to us, is the gift of hope for a new life. *(First blue candle is lit.)*

All: We continue to hope in God's promise that Jesus, the Christ Child will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace.

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #6 (v.1) A Candle Is Burning *(Words: © 1986 Sandra Dean, 1134 Plant Dr., Ottawa, ON K1V 9E8. Music: James R. Murray.)*

OPENING PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

HYMN: VU #5 All Earth Is Waiting *(Words: Catalanian, Alberto Taule 1972; English trans. Gertrude C. Suppe 1987, alt. Music: Alberto Taule 1972; harm. Skinner Chavez-Melo 1988. Words & music copyright 1993 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica.)*

THEME CONVERSATION

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (unison)

Break into our lives, O God, through your unexpected and awesome deeds, guide us by your word so that we may know you are our God and ourselves to be your people. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 80, VU #794 (Part 1) *(John Wainright 1750, alt.)*
Shepherd of Israel, hear us,

you who lead Joseph like a flock,

you who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.

Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh;

stir up your might, come and save us.

R: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayer?

**You have fed us with the bread of weeping,
and given us tears in plenty to drink**

You have made a mockery of us to our neighbours,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Let your hand rest on the one at your right hand,
on the one you have made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never forsake you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

R: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:24-37

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM: As the Wind Blows *(Words & music: Pat Mayberry 2012; arrangement David Kai 2014)*

OFFERTORY HYMN: VU #7 (v.1) Hope Is A Star *(Words: Brian Wren 1985 Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987. Words, Music: © 1989. Hope Publishing Company)*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (unison)

Loving and gracious God, we offer these gifts in anticipation of the gift of Christ to our lives. May they be used to bring hope to the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER: (unison)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.*

HYMN: VU #2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus *(Words: Charles Wesley 1744; Music: VU #222 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, Rowland Huw Prichard ca. 1831)*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:

*from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH: (based on 1 Corinthians: 1)

SUNG BLESSING: MV #221 I am Walking a Path of (Hope) X3 *(Words & Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier. Canmore, AB. Used by permission.)*

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

MUSICAL POSTLUDE: VU #31 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You? *(Music: Melchoir Teschner ca. 1615 harm. William Henry Monk 1861.)*

Today's bulletin is a gift given in celebration of Roger Richards and his many years of dedicated service to Topsail United Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 OR
kathy.brett101@gmail.com

Christmas in Memoriam Dedications

If you wish to make a bulletin dedication for Christmas Eve, please put it in writing and place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or email it to: 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. 2nd 2021.

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

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.

Emmanuel House Fundraiser

We are not able to have the OutReach Christmas Dinner this year and that event usually raises the \$500.00 that we give to Emmanuel House at Christmas each year, along with your donated toiletries, new clothes etc. etc. for Stella's Circle. The Coffee Group is having a little fundraiser which involves the purchase of a kit containing 6 Epicure Spices, featuring their top selling seasonings all in a nice collection box: Taco Seasoning, Sweet & Sour Stir Fry, Pulled Chicken, Southern Baked Gluten Free Bread Crumb Mix, Mac & Cheese, and Chocolate Pudding, all for \$25.00 per box. Outreach will keep \$10.00 of each kit sold. 50 Kits sold will give us our \$500.00; any excess will go to the Mission & Service Fund. These kits make lovely Christmas gifts. Please call or email Gillian 781-1562 or gcorbett@warp.nfld.net by **December 7th** to place your order for pre-Christmas delivery. You will be notified when your order is available for pick up at the church. Payment is due on pick up. Thank you.