

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
"The Church by the Side of the Road"
Fully Accessible; Scent-Free Environment
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Minister Rev. Kathy J. Brett (cell 771-9779)
Musician: Brad Cole

DECEMBER 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY
WE GATHER AS GOD'S JOYFUL PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND SHARING TIME

CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on Isaiah 9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

That light is the light of the world.

(The Christ Candle is lit)

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined.

We rejoice as at the time of harvest.

For the yoke of burden has been broken.

The pressure, the tension, the anxiety of the past fade as we gather in this place.

For a child has been born for us.

God's child has come to be with us.

One, who will rule with peace and justice forever and ever.

And through whose love we are all children of God.

CAROL: #60 O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the king of Angels.

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, light of light

lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb
very God begotten, not created. R

Sing, Choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens to heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest; R

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R

Yea, Lord, we greet thee born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; R

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (unison) On this day of days, loving God, we gather to celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, born long ago and still today, child of the universe, present among us. May we, in the things we do and say, continue to give birth to the presence of the living Christ in our world today and always. Amen.

OPENING & BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS

It is Christmas a time to celebrate

We celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ.

It is Christmas and we are filled with wonder and excitement.

We celebrate the gift of joy.

It is Christmas and we share with one another.

We celebrate the gift of love in our midst.

Prayer:

Gracious and loving God, we offer our thanksgiving for the gifts that we receive from you. For you are truly the source of every good and perfect gift. Today we celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer who came to show us your ways and the extent of your love.

Bless us this morning, bless our gifts and those who share with us. May we accept these gifts with grace and use them with joy, today and in the days to come. We ask for one more gift - that you may set within us, hearts that are over-flowing gratitude for all that we receive. Amen.

THE PEACE:

May the gentle peace of the Christ Child be with you.

And also with you.

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

HYMN: #69 Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM

LETTER FROM THE FAMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES OF PARENTS

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL VOWS OF SUPPORT

Let us pledge our support and care.

**Jonah, as a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support
and uphold you within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism and live our commitment to this promise.

Amen.

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us. We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth,

always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our lives" by Kathy Galloway published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) *The Pattern of Our Days*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications,

POURING OF THE WATER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ACT OF BAPTISM

MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

BLESSING & LAYING ON OF HANDS

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME:

Jonah, into the household of faith we welcome you with joy and thanksgivings.

Jonah, we welcome you as members of God's family.

We welcome you with love that you may know Christ's love.

We welcome you with joy that you may learn of Christ's joy.

We welcome you by name that you may know who you are.

We welcome you in Christ's name that you may know whose you are.

You are a part of our family and will always find a welcome place here.

PRESENTATIONS: Candle and Certificate

BLESSING

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (unison)

God of light, we listen again to the story of your most wondrous gift. Open us by your Spirit, so that we will truly hear it and respond with love and wonder. Amen.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-7

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 80, VU#794 (Part 1)

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:8-20

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CAROL: #56 Jesus, O Brother

*Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother kind and good.
"I" said the donkey, shaggy and brown.
"I carried the mother up hill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town,
I" said the donkey, shaggy and brown.*

*"I" said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head; I"
said the cow all white and red.*

*"I" said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn,
I" said the sheep, with curly horn.*

*"I" said the Dove from the rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I,
I," said the Dove, from the rafters high.*

*Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell*

*of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.
The gifts they gave Emmanuel.*

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

SUNG OFFERTORY: (Tune Away in A Manger)

*We bring, now before you, our gifts now to share.
As signs of our love, joy, commitment and care.
We praise you for Jesus and his holy birth.
The Bethlehem baby who's love fills the earth.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (unison)

O God, who brings to birth abundant life; we thank you for the birth we celebrate today. In response to your great love, we offer our gifts. And we open ourselves to you, that you might be born in us this Christmastide. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today.

LORD'S PRAYER

CAROL: #48 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"**

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. **R**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. **R**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH



To the Glory of God, today's Bulletin is a gift given
in Memory of *Pamela and Michael LeGrow* by Mommy & Daddy (Ed Jr. & Debbie)
and sister Christine

In Memory of Parents and Grandparents *Ed LeGrow Sr. and Laura LeGrow* by Ed Jr. &
Debbie and granddaughter Christine.