

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
"The Church by the Side of the Road"
www.topsailunited.ca Email: office@topsailunited.ca
Office Phone: 834-4567 Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00am-12:00pm
Minister Rev. Kathy J. Brett (cell 771-9779)
Music Director: Madeleine Gaudette

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

186th ANNIVERSARY OF TOPSAIL UNITED

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND SHARING TIME

INTROIT: #213 Rejoice the Lord is King (vs. 1)

*Rejoice the Lord is King!
Your risen Lord adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Sing praise to God for the 186 years of blessings here at Topsail United

We praise, we love God.

Sing praise to God for the blessing of promise of little children.

We praise, God who makes us one in the sacrament of Baptism.

Enter this sacred place and time with thanksgiving to our gracious creator.

Hallelujah! Praise be to God!

God's love has been made known to us through Jesus Christ.

Praise to Christ who reigns in love forever and ever.

Sing praise to God for the power of the Holy Spirit,

We offer our praise for the connection we have to the divine and to another.

HYMN: #820 Make a Joyful Noise all the Earth

*Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!*

*Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! R*

*Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! R*

*Ages through endless ages,
Seasons of endless years,
The love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! R*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

HYMN: #455 This Child of Ours

This child of ours, this miracle.
You have a dream and plan for it:
You wash it clean, You cradle it,
You bless it, and You call it Yours:
this child of ours, This child of Yours.

This child of Yours, This miracle
reborn of Water and the Word;
the book of Life records its name.
You smile and angels celebrate:
This child of Yours, this child of ours.

This child of ours, this miracle
whom Christ would die for, we may love,

and train and raise, and teach and praise,
and watch the Spirit model a life:
this child of ours, this child of Yours.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM

LETTER FROM THE FAMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES OF PARENTS

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILIES

CONGREGATIONAL VOWS OF SUPPORT

Let us pledge our support and care.

Violet and Jace, 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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: #918 A New Creed

We are not alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

POURING OF THE WATER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ACT OF BAPTISM

MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

BLESSING & LAYING ON OF HANDS

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

Violet and Jace, 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)

Eternal God, on this Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday of the Christian year, we gather to hear and to celebrate the life of Jesus Christ. As we listen and reflect on your word, may our hearts and minds be open to hear your message of peace, hope and love. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 100, VU#824

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25: 31-46

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Laughter Lit the Stars of Morning

OFFERTORY

SUNG OFFERTORY: #191 (MV) What Can I Do?

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (unison)

We come before you, God with these gifts which come from our hands and our hearts. They represent the products of our labours; they symbolize our commitment to your church; they show our willingness to do your will on earth. Bless us as we dedicate these gifts to the service of others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #713 I See a New Heaven

*I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
As the old one will pass away,
Where the fountain of life flows
And without price goes
To all people who abide in the land.*

*There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
Yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
The Tree of Life will be. R*

*There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
Body and soul, struggling but whole
Like flowers after the rain. R*

*There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
Reveals the promise of love. R*

*There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land. R*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH: *(based on 1 Corinthians 1:15-23)*

POSTLUDE



To the Glory of God, Today's Bulletin is a gift given
In loving memory of *Maude Brown*, forever in our hearts,
from her Daughters, Barbara and Brenda



LIFE AND WORK OF OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Sun, Nov 26 | Aurora | 6:30pm (S) |
| | SIF Yoga | 7:00pm (CH) |
| Mon, Nov 27 | Tai Chi | 9:00am (CH) |
| | TUC Board Meeting | 7:00pm (BR) |
| | Sparks | 6:00pm (CH) |
| Tues, Nov 28 | Embers | 6:00pm (CH) |
| Wed, Nov 29 | Coffee Time | 10:00am (CH) |
| | Inspiration | 6:30pm (S) |
| | CBSYC | 6:30pm (CH) |
| Thurs, Nov 30 | Family Resource Ctr | 9-12pm (CH) |
| | TUC Choir | 7:30pm (S) |
| | Winner's in Sobriety | 8:00pm (CH) |
| Fri, Dec 1 | Tai Chi | 9:00am (CH) |
| Sat, Dec 2 | Breakfast with Santa | 8-11am (CH) |
| Sun, Dec 3 | Worship & Coffee | 10:30am |

Today with Joy and Thanksgiving, we welcome *Jace Glenn Kennell*, Son of Bethany and Justin Kennell and *Violet Sophia Elliott*, Daughter of Kathleen Skanes and Douglas Elliott and little sister to Samantha; through the sacrament of Baptism.

STIR UP SUNDAY: The last Sunday before Advent, in parts of England is referred to as "Stir Up Sunday," the day when traditionally families gather to prepare the Christmas pudding. Each member of the family takes a turn in stirring the mixture while making a wish. The pudding should be stirred from east to west, in honour of the Magi (Wise Men) who came from the east to visit baby Jesus. The prayer for Stir up Sunday: Stir up, O God the wills of your faithful people; that they, richly bearing the fruit of good works, may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Breakfast with Santa - December 2 @ 8 - 11am

The Men's Club Breakfast with Santa is on Saturday Dec. 2 from 8-11am with the usual great Menu. Cost \$10, Children under 12, \$5. Get your pictures with Santa! All are Welcome.

2024 CHURCH CALENDARS: *The calendars are in!* Drop by the office to pick up your order. Cost is \$7.50 each.

CHRISTMAS BAKE AND CRAFT SALE: TUC Coffee Group will be holding a Bake and Craft Sale on **Saturday, December 9th from 10 – 1:00pm**. If you can help out with donations of Breads, Muffins, Cakes, Cookies, Candy or any crafts it would be greatly appreciated. Donations will be received on Friday, Dec. 8th from 2–4pm and 6–8pm at the church.

WARM-UP TREES: Please bring new Hats, Mitts, and socks to hang on the “Warm Up Trees” in the Sanctuary to help keep people warm & cozy over the winter months. Items will be collected until December 13th for delivery Thursday, December 14th.

WINTER COAT DRIVE: TUC has organized a *Winter Coat Drive* to give back to our community. We are accepting donations of gently used winter coats in all sizes (child, youth and adult). Drop off: Dec 9th, 10-1pm in Sanctuary; Pick Up: Dec 16th, 3-5pm. We want to stress that there is a “no questions asked” policy for pick up! You can pick up for yourself or someone else you know who is in need this winter.

FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS DONATIONS: The CBS/Paradise Food Bank will help over 400 families this year in the form of Gift Cards for food for a Christmas Dinner. The need is increasing due to the rise in food costs. 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. Registration continues until December 1st and the Gift cards will be given out December 12th – 21st. Special envelopes are available in church or you can use a regular envelope for your donation and just indicate the amount is for “Food Bank Christmas”. All Donations will be credited to your name or envelope number. Please donate as you are able, every bit helps and is gratefully appreciated.

EMMANUEL HOUSE CHRISTMAS: Coffee Group is raising funds towards the \$500.00 that our church traditionally gives to Emmanuel House at Christmas time. We also collect men’s and women’s toiletries and clothing from underwear to jackets (mainly larger sizes) to help those who avail of the programmes at Emmanuel House, which is a part of Stella Burry Community Services and provides residential-based counseling to men and women experiencing social and emotional difficulties. All items must be new. Please help us to help others, by donating items or money for Emmanuel House before December 10th for delivery Thursday, December 14th.

WINDOW REPLACEMENT INITIATIVE: We are happy to announce that our windows have been replaced. The cost is approximately \$6000. Any special donations to support this important project will be welcomed.

COASTAL SOUNDS/AURORA: Are thrilled to announce, “A CELTIC CHRISTMAS”, Choral Concert and 10th Anniversary Cantata, on Sunday Dec. 3 at 7 P.M. at All Saints Anglican Church, Foxtrap, with Special Guests Matthew Byrne and local Members of NLESD. Tickets are \$ 25 and are available at

www.coastalsoundschoir.com Donations for the Community Food Sharing Association Greatly Appreciated.

CAFÉ OF MEMORIES: Join Lodge Westmoorland in Partnership with Alzheimer Society, as they host, Café of Memories, an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments for people living with dementia and their care partners. December 5th from 2-4pm at Freemason's Hall. Free of Charge. Call 709-576-0608 to register.

CBS COMMUNITY YOUTH CHOIR: Presents "*The Magic of Christmas*" on Wednesday, December 20th from 6:30 – 7:30pm at TUC. Admission by donation to CBS Food Bank.

VIGIL: On Sunday, Dec 10 at 3:00 pm, St. Mark's will be holding the 19th annual **vigil to remember those who died by suicide** and to support survivors of suicide loss. This vigil remembers family, friends and loved ones through poetry, prayer and candle lighting. In-Person Location: St. Mark's Church, 203 Logy Bay Road, St. John's. Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksnl/> To add a new name to be read aloud email Kim at kakelly@mun.ca by **midnight on December 9, 2023**. To add a new photo to the slideshow, email Juanita at juanita.marie.simmons@gmail.com or Kim at kakelly@mun.ca by **December 5, 2023**.

ADVENT – CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AND EVENTS

DECEMBER 3 Advent 1 – Hope Hanging of Greens & Holy Communion 10:30 am

DECEMBER 10 Advent 2 – Peace 10:30 am

DECEMBER 17 Advent 3 - Joy – Pageant 10:30 am

DECEMBER 21 Longest Night 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 24 Advent 4 – Love 10:30 am

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 pm.

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm (*Communion*)
(*All Christmas Eve Services - Bring own battery operated candle*)

Next Sunday – We will have a Hanging of the Greens service. During the service, we will be taking part in festive decorating. You are invited to bring along a Christmas ornament for the tree.