

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
“The Church by the Side of the Road”
Fully Accessible; Scent-Free Environment
Minister Rev. Kathy J. Brett (cell 771-9779)
Music Director: Madeleine Gaudette

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023
March 3, 2023
Topsail United Church

“I Have Heard About Your Faith”

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

HYMN: #412 This is the Day
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our god has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.

You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,

we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.

THE PEACE:

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Praise to the Lord, we thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon Taiwan. Praise God, the Creator, who created this beautiful island covered with mountain forests and nurtured by the ocean. Taiwan is rich in natural resources.

Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.

More than one hundred years ago, missionaries who came to Taiwan spread the good news. The people heard the gospel and received the grace of salvation.

Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.

Since the 16th century, Taiwan has been colonized by different foreign forces; and experienced ethnic, cultural, social, and political conflict, and integration. By the grace of God, the people on this island can live in peace. Taiwan shows great hospitality and is willing to help and become a blessing to others.

Let the name of the Lord be praised. May your glory be with us.

VIDEO PRESENTATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Forgiving God, we confess our sins to you. We have failed to take care of the land you entrusted to us. We have used it in unrighteous ways causing pollution and the extinction of various species.

Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

Gracious God... we seek your forgiveness.

Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

O God, you are faithful and righteous. Forgive us and cleanse us from every sin so that we might live in your light. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know you and be filled with love and faith. We thank you for your unending mercy and forgiveness. Reveal yourself to us so that we may know the immeasurable greatness of your power! Amen.

Amen.

HYMN: #371 Open My Eyes

Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears and let me hear
voices of truth though sendest clear,
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false shall disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my heart and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

THE WORD OF GOD AND THE WITNESS OF LIFE

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 1:15-19

REFLECTION

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Put Peace Into Each Others Hands

MEDITATION

Letters of Encouragement for Women in Taiwan

Prayer Response: (unison)

Merciful God, we come to you in prayer inspired by the women who shared their stories of faith, struggle, and hope. They were not defeated by the difficulties but empowered by your wisdom. We are not alone, for you are listening. We thank you for your presence, guidance and protection as we walk through the valley of shadows. May we glorify you and become a living testimony of Christ.

OFFERING

HYMN: #663 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away.
O let me from this day be wholly thine.

While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide,
bid darkness turn to day;
wipe sorrow's tears away;
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

May thy rich grace impact
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
as thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever sing to thee
I will ever sing to thee

BLESSING: (unison)

May God hear our stories and keep us in faith. May Jesus grant us wisdom to truly know the meaning of redemption. May the Holy Spirit open our hearts so that we can be a blessing to others. Amen.