

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

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JANUARY 7, 2024

EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND SHARING TIME

INTROIT: #92 Will You Come and See the Light (vs.1)

*Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;  
Will you hide, or decide, to meet the light?*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The lights might be placed back into the box.

**Yet, there is light.**

The tree, with the shining star or angel, might be stored under the stairs for another year.

**Yet, there is light.**

Christmas might be put away.

**Yet, there is light. The Light of hope of the child of Bethlehem still shines and leads  
the wise and foolish, young and old, rich and poor, to him, the One true light.**

In thanksgiving,

**We offer our praise and worship.**

HYMN: #81 As with Gladness Men of Old

*As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore your splendor see..*

*As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
Chris, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with eager pace*

*ever seek your throne of grace.*

*As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger crude and bare;  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.*

*Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds your glory hide.*

*In that heav'nly country bright  
None shall need created light;  
you its light, its Joy, its Crown,  
you its Sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
hallelujah to our King.*

## **OPENING PRAYER**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

**ACT OF PRAISE:** #87 I am the Light of the World (Refrain)

*I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow in love, you learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

## **THE PEACE:**

As the wise ones sought Jesus by following a star, let us follow the star-child in the Christ light of peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

## **WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:** (unison)

**O God of Epiphany, we long to hear your holy word in fresh ways. Open our ears to the call of your voice. Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day. Fill us with the anticipation for your future. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 72, VU 790

Give the ruler your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal heir,  
    **for judging your people rightly,  
    and upholding the poor with justice;**  
That the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,  
    **and the hills, prosperity with justice. R**

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor  
    among the people,  
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.  
    **May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,  
    as long as the moon from age to age.**  
May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,  
like showers that water the earth;  
    **may your anointed be one in whole days  
    justice shall flourish and peace abound  
    till the moon is no more. R**

May the rulers of Tarshish and the isles pay tribute,  
the monarchs of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.  
    **May all rulers do homage, and all nations render services.**  
For your anointed shall deliver the needy when they cry,  
the poor and those who have no helper.  
    **Your anointed shall have pity on the weak and the needy,  
    and save the lives of the poor.**  
From oppression and violence your anointed  
    shall redeem their life,  
    **and count as precious their blood. R**

Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel,  
who alone does marvellous things.  
    **Blessed in your glorious name for ever.**  
    **May the whole earth be filled with your glory. R**

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 2:1-12

**REFLECTION**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**MISSION AND SERVICE STORY**

**PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS**

**SUNG OFFERTORY: #182(MV) Grateful (Refrain)**

*Grateful for the life you give us,  
Thankful for your Holy Son, joyful in your Spirit flowing  
Over all, O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
We will praise you.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (responsive)**

Holy God, we bring our gifts before you this morning.

**We have no gold, no frankincense, no myrrh –**

**But what we have we give to you.**

Like foreign dignitaries paying homage to a king, we place these offerings before you to benefit your kingdom because we know your reign is not contained to the heavens.

**You broke into our weary world and there is still so much joy to bring.**

Use our gifts of money to meet the needs of our community both inside and beyond these walls.

**May the money we bring make a tangible difference in the lives of your people. May they help care for one another, anoint the sick, sit with the lonely, and listen to voices that are silenced.**

Incarnate God, you broke into our weary world and there is still so much joy to bring.

**May it be so, Amen.**

**WE SHARE AT THE TABLE**

**INVITATION**

**HYMN: #92 In the Darkness Shines the Splendour**

*In the darkness shines the splendor  
of the Word who took our flesh,  
welcoming, in love's surrender,  
death's dark shadow at his creche.  
Bearing every human story  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.*

*Light of nations, veiled in history,  
born of woman's flesh and blood,  
calling to the depths of mystery  
restless hearts that seek the good.  
Healing every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.*

*Broken bread, sustaining us in sorrow,*

*wine poured out to toast our joy,  
exodus and new tomorrow,  
life's full promise to enjoy!  
Gladdening every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.*

*All God's people, sing in jubilation  
of the birth that sets us free,  
telling of the revelation:  
Jesus, God's epiphany.  
Celebrate the human story!  
Word made flesh reveals our glory.*

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Feel the warm of light, for God is shining upon you.

**And God's light streams upon you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open them to God's brilliant love.**

Let us give thanks for the light and love of God.

**We offer joyful thanks to God.**

God of all blessings... the light we praise

**Holy, Holy, Holy One God of justice and love**

**Heaven and earth are full of your wonder**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Accept our praises...the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit... now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BREAKING THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP**

### **SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** (unison)

**We give you thanks for the gifts of bread and cup, sustenance and strength, which we had privilege to share in. May we shine with love and compassion for all the world to see; and may all come to see the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN: #82 A Light is Gleaming**

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.**

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,  
It hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,  
Our memories and tears. **R**

When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:  
"God's light will ever stay." **R**

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen.  
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,  
And this will be a sign:  
**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.**

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,  
warming all our days. **R**

**BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**POSTLUDE**



### **LIFE AND WORK OF OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

Sun, Jan 7	Aurora Choir	7-9pm (S)
	SIF Yoga	7:00pm (CH)
Mon, Jan 8	Tai Chi	9:00am (CH)
	Sparks	6:00pm (CH)
Tues, Jan 9	Embers	6:00pm (CH)
Wed, Jan 10	<b>Coffee Time</b>	<b>10:00am (CH)</b>
	Inspiration	6:30pm (S)
	CBSYC	6:30pm (CH)
Thurs, Jan 11	Parent & Tots, Family Resource	9-12pm (CH)
	<b>TUC Choir</b>	<b>7:30pm (S)</b>
	Winners in Sobriety	8:00pm (CH)
Fri, Jan 12	Tai Chi	9:00am (CH)
Sun, Jan 14	<b>Worship &amp; Coffee</b>	<b>10:30am</b>

### **2024 CHURCH CALENDARS**

If you ordered a calendar and have not picked it up, please drop by the office to collect your order.

### **2024 CHURCH ENVELOPES**

TUC envelopes for 2024 are not in yet but we are expecting them early next week. We will announce when they arrive.

**If you or someone you know, would like to hear from Reverend Kathy, please contact the church office at 709-834-4567 or 709-771-9779(cell) email: [kathy.brett101@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.brett101@gmail.com)**