**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**PREACHER: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori**

**\*** You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***We Gather Together***

***Choral Prelude***

***Opening Prayer***

***\*Hymn:* VU #179** *“Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks”*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Passing of the Peace***

***Gathering Hymn:* VU #958** “Halle, Halle, Halle”

***Welcome***

***Life and Work of the Church*** (see insert)

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship***

One: The Lord is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed!**

One: You came from heaven to earth

**All: to show the way,**

One: from the earth to the cross

**All: my debt to pay**

One: from the cross to the grave

from the grave to the sky

**All: Lord I lift your name on high.**

One: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

**All: He is risen indeed!**

***Silence***

***Prayers of the Faithful***

***Intercessory Prayer***

We have prayed all these through Christ Jesus our Lord; He is the One who taught us to pray saying … “**Our Father …”**

***The Lord’s Prayer*** *(Sung)* **(VU#560)**

***Children’s Time*** “*Stop; and Let Me Tell You”*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stop; and let me tell you What the Lord has done for me. Stop; and let me tell you What the Lord has done for me. He forgave my sin And He saved my soul, He cleansed my heartAnd He made me whole.Stop; and let me tell youWhat the Lord has done for me.  | Go and tell the storyOf the Christ of Calvary,Go and tell the storyOf the Christ of Calvary:He'll forgive their sins,He will save their souls,He'll cleanse their hearts,He will make them whole.Go and tell the storyOf the Christ of Calvary. |

***Church Choir***

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***Scripture Readings***

Old Testament: 2 Kings 7:1-9

Reader: This is the Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:9-20

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: We praise You, O Christ.**

***\* Hymn of Preparation:* VU #343** *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

***The Message:* “Go and Tell the Story**”

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Offertory Dedication Hymn***

 **God of love, hear our prayer, bless this offering we bring you.**

 **May our lives do your will, guide and guard us forever.**

 **Give us courage to stand for truth, help us give to others.**

 **God of love, hear our prayer, bless this offering we bring you.**

***Offertory Prayer***

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:* VU# 509** *“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”*

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:* MV#209** “*Go make a difference*”

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

Last week was Easter Sunday as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are still in the Easter mood. We know that the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ does not end with Christ’s dying, or even His rising from death, but continues with His living again in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. This fact so transforms our relationship and responsibility to Him that we become the heralds of ***life***, ***hope***, and ***joy*** in a world that is lifeless, hopeless, and cheerless.

1. **Before seeing the risen Christ**

We, like Mary, have ….

1. Blurred Vision in our perception
2. Bad Judgment in terms of our perspective
3. Blocked Purpose in Life.
4. **After seeing the risen Christ**

We, like Mary, experience a …

1. Change of Relationship to Christ
2. Change of Responsibility to Christ

***Think about This!***

Jesus is still revealing Himself to men and women, and giving them new responsibilities or commissioning them to be witnesses for Him to others.

* Mary “***went out and told …”*** (Mark 16:10)
* The two disciples on the road to Emmaus “***returned and reported ….***” (Luke 24:33-35)
* After Jesus’ ascension, the disciples “***went out and preached …”*** (Mark 16:20)
* The lepers said to one another “***… let us go and tell …***” (2 Kings 7:9)

**First United Church**

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of Christian faith, proclaiming and celebrating the love of God in Jesus Christ through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit*

****

*Sunday, April 8, 2018*

*10:30am*

*7 Curtis St., St.Thomas, ON N5P 1H3 Phone: (519) 631-7570*

*e-mail:* *firstunited@bellnet.ca*

*web: www.firstunitedchurch.weebly.com*

*MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD*

*Pastoral Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*