**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 14, 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*

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

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

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***We Gather Together***

***Opening Prayer***

***Choral Prelude***

1. *“Lord, I Lift Your Name On High” (2x)*

**Lord, I lift Your name on high;**

**Lord I love to sing Your praises.**

**I’m so glad You’re in my life;**

**I’m so glad You came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth to show the way,**

**From earth to the cross, my debt to pay**

**From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;**

**Lord I lift Your name on high!**

1. *“Hosanna!” (2x)*

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Passing of the Peace***

***Welcome/Life and Work of the Church***

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship***

One: Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion!

**All: Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!**

One: Look, your king is coming to you.

**All: He is righteous and victorious,**

**yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—**

**even on a donkey’s colt.**

One: Bless the name of the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**All: Hosanna to the Christ, even the Lord Jesus, Son of David**

One: Glory be to the Father our Creator, the Son our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer.

**All: As it was in the beginning, it’s now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN**

***\* Children’s Palm Parade:*** *VU#124 “He Came Riding on a Donkey” (vv1&2)*

***Circle Time***

***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***

***Anthem*** – Senior Choir

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Offertory 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 Listen for God’s Word***

***Scripture Readings –*** *Mark 11:12-19*

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

***\* Hymn of Preparation:*** VU #123 *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*”

***The Message:* “**The Great Expectations”

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:*** *MV#213 “Take Up His Song of Peace” (2x)*

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:*** *MV#209 “Go, Make a Diff’rence”*

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

As winter gives way to spring, many people begin to plant gardens. The land is prepared, seeds are sown, and the plants cared for. The goal of planting is to harvest the fruit of our labour.

In the same way Jesus expected to find some ***fruits*** from the fig tree He visited after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Also, He expected ***faithfulness*** from the religious leaders He met at the temple. Jesus disappointed on both occasions.

God expects us to be both FRUITFUL and FAITHFUL in our good use of all that God has given to us:

1. **Fruitfulness**
2. Fruit of the Spirit

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy …” (Galatians 5:22-23)

1. Abiding fruit – multiplication

1. **Faithfulness**
2. Faithful to God

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

1. Faithful to God’s kingdom purposes
2. ***Faithfulness*** results in ***fruitfulness***.

**Think about this**

* You are God’s farm, so it is required of you to be fruitful
* You are God’s temple, so it is required of you to be faithful