**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*

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Easter Sunday

April 21, 2019 @ 10:30am

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

*e-mail: office@1stunitedchurch.ca*

*web: www.1stunitedchurch.ca*

*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

***Notes***: Asterisk (\*) – You may stand if able

***God Gathers Us Together***

***Opening Prayer***

***Musical/Choral Prelude:***

***\* Opening Hymn:***

Chorus: **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**For the Lord our God**

**Almighty Reigns**

**Hallelujah, Amen.**

***Life and Work of the Church***

***Welcoming of Visitors***

***God Draws Us Near To Worship***

***Call to Worship***

One: The Lord is risen!

**All. He is risen indeed!**

One: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.

**All: This is the Lord’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

One: Death could not hold Him captive, Hallelujah!

**All: Even in the grave He is Lord!**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed, Amen**

***Hymn of Praise:*** VU#173 “Thine Is the Glory”

***Prayer of Praise and Adoration***

One: Yours is the glory, O God, for raising Jesus from the darkness of death.

**All: Yours is the glory, O Christ, for being prepared, through your love** **and your sacrifice, to conquer death and give us the gift of eternal life.**

One: And, as if that were not enough, you greet us by name, as you greeted Mary in the garden, and transform our lives forever with your Easter life.

All:  **Risen Lord, we worship and adore you;**

One: and we pray that the Holy Spirit, Your life in us, will so conform us to your image, that we radiate Your glory here, through our rejoicing and praise, and in all the places where people's lives are still affected by the powers of death and sin.

**All: Yours is the glory, O God, for showing us the human face of Your love in Jesus, Your Son, our risen Lord.**

One: Yours is the glory, risen Lord Jesus, and we rejoice that 'endless is the victory that you over death have won'.  Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Amen**

***Intercessory Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer (VU #960)***

***Senior Choir:*** “Lord of the Dance”

***God Invites Us To Respond To His Love***

***Easter Offertory***

***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***

***God Invites Us To Listen For His Word***

***Gospel Reading: Mark 16:1-8***

**Reader:** This is the Gospel Message

**All: We Praise You O Christ**

***\*Sermon Hymn:*** VU#159 “The Strife Is O’er”

***Message:*** “The Great Triumph”

***God Sends Out Into the World to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:*** VU#155 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:*** MV#121 “Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!”

(chorus only 2x)

***\* Musical Postlude***

We thank Anita May for sharing her violin playing with us today.

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

Christ died on that first Good Friday, but the story didn’t end there. Death couldn’t hold Him captive. The tomb couldn’t keep Him. He rose again from the dead! Hallelujah! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is …

* **An indisputable fact**

“***Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel .…how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures***” (1 Cor. 15:1, 3-4).

* **An indispensable faith**

“***If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain .…And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins…If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable***” (1 Cor. 15:14, 17, 19).

* **An irresistible force**

“***Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ***” (1 Cor. 15:57).

We now have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We have hope because the resurrection is a **victory**, a great triumph over …

1. **Disasters**
2. **Demons**
3. **Diseases**
4. **Death**

**Think about this:**

The resurrection is a fact, a faith, and a force in Christ—to believe and receive. And having believed and received, let us reflect Christ glory as we go out to a lost world and tell men and women that Jesus died and rose again to be the Savior of sinners.