**Fourth 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***

1. Awesome God

***Our God is an awesome God, and reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow’r and love, Our God is in awesome God.*** *(2x)*

1. MV#135 “Called By Earth & Sky”

***Chorus: Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.***

1. ***Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean’s dream, waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.***

***Repeat Chorus***

1. ***Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.***

***Repeat Chorus***

***Opening Prayer***

***\*Hymn:*** VU #240 *“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Passing of the Peace*** (VU 958 *“Halle, Halle, Halle”*)

***Welcome***

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

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship:*** VU#724: *Psalm 1*

***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***

***Circle Time*** *(with the Children)*

***\* Children’s Hymn of Praise:*** MV#92 *“Like A Rock”*

***Musical Offering****: Esther Wendel-Caraher, Jerome Thomas & Jody*

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***Scripture Readings***

New Testament: Acts 2:42-47

Reader: This is the Work of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

***\* Hymn of Preparation:*** VU #606 “*In Christ There is no East or West*”

***The Message:* “**Becoming a Healthy Growing Church”

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Musical Offering:*** *Alvin Epp*

***Hymn/Song of Dedication***

 **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#222 *“Come Let Us Sing”*

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:*** VU#298 *“When You Walk From Here”*

 **When you walk from here, when you walk from here,**

 **walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God’s humble care.**

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

The faith we celebrate on Sunday can feel disconnected from the world we face on Monday.

But the early church in the New Testament practised a regular rhythm of gathering for growth and worship, then scattering into the world to work and share the gospel with others (Acts 4-9). Theirs was a **healthy church – a blue print for a thriving.**

This is instructive for us: a healthy/thriving church, by default grows …

1. **Stronger through worship.**
2. **Larger through evangelism.**
3. **Warmer through loving fellowship.**
4. **Deeper through discipleship.**
5. **Broader through ministry.**

**Think about this:**

You have a role to play in the well-being and growth of your church – First United Church.

**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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*Sunday, April 22, 2018*

*10:30am*

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*MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD*

*Pastoral Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*