**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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August 26, 2018 @ 10:30am

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

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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*

**Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

Worship Service

Sunday, August 26, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.

Worship Leader: Richard Auckland

***Notes***: Asterisk (\*) – You may stand if comfortable doing so

**VU** = Voices United **MV** = More Voices

***Musical/Choral Prelude***

1. **MV#14** *“Where Two or Three are Gathered”* (2x)

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,**

**I am there. I am there.**

1. **MV#18** *“Lord, Prepare Me”* (2x)

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,**

**pure and holy tried and true;**

**with thanksgiving, I’ll be a living**

**sanctuary for you.**

***Call to Worship*** (responsive) Based on Ephesians 5:20

Give thanks to God!
**We thank God for joy, for laughter,
for abundant blessings of every kind.**
Give thanks to God
at all times and for everything!
**We thank God, when we can and as we can,
for struggles, for solitude, for fears.**
Give thanks to God
at all times and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
**We thank God that, in Christ,
our joys as well as our pain,
our losses as well as our laughter,
are in God's heart and hands.**

***Opening Prayer*** (unison)

 **The one constant in your world is change, Lord.**

 **We become content with that which we know and experience.**

 **You trust us to make good choices, but forgive us when we don’t.**

**We sometimes question the challenges and changes you present to us.**

**Help us to embrace the change you have for each of us.**

**Good or bad, we know you are with us to guide us, carry us or be beside us as needed.**

**Help us to be thankful for the changes that occur in our lives, knowing that you have a greater plan for each of us.**

**Help us to do good work in your world, and to make a difference.**

**Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:* VU#375** *``Spirit of Gentleness”*

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

***Welcoming of Visitors***

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Greetings: Passing the Peace of Christ***

***(****Halle, Halle, Halle****)***

***Songs of Praise***

1. **VU#381** *“Spirit of Life ”* (1x)

**Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the seas; move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice. Roots hold me close; wings set me free; Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

1. **MV#25** *“O God, Send Out Your Spirit* ” (2x)

 **O God, send out your Spirit; renew the face of the earth.**

 **O God, send out your Spirit, renew the face of the earth.**

***Prayer***

***Praise and Adoration***

***Intercession***

***The Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn:* VU #352***“I Danced in the Morning” (“Lord of the Dance”)*

*The children may go to the Activity Room with Joy Dawdy during the singing of the hymn*

***Scripture Reading:* Ecclesiastes 3:1- 14**

*Reader: This is the Word of God*

***All: Thanks be to God***

***The Message:* “Blessed Change”** Richard Auckland

***Offertory***

***Hymn 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 to give to others.**

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

***Offertory Prayer*** (unison)

**God of grace, thank you for blessing us with so many gifts. We in turn give of ourselves as we are able, to give you our time, talents and financial offering. It is our delight to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have is your’s alone. Accept this our joyful offering as a token of our abiding love; use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world. Amen.**

***\*Closing Hymn:* VU#675** *“Will Your Anchor Hold”*

***\* Benediction/Sending Forth***

***Threefold Amen***

***Commissioning Hymn:* VU#209** *“Go Make A Difference”*

**Go make a diff’rence, We can make a diff’rence.**

 **Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

 **Go make a diff’rence, We can make a diff’rence.**

 **Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

***\* Musical Postlude***

**Ezra 10:4**

**“Arise, for it is your task, and be strong for we are with you;**

**Be strong and do it.**