**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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Communion Sunday

August 5, 2018 @ 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*

**11th Sunday of Pentecost**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, August 5, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. Worship

Preacher: Rev. John Brown

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

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

*George Olley writes:  “I count it among my rarest gifts to be an invited guest at Your table, Lord.” Theme of Today’s Service  --   GRACE*

***God Gathers Us Together***

***Musical/Choral Prelude***

1. **MV#8** *“And on this Path” (2x)*

**And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,**

**and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,**

**and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!**

**Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!**

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.**

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

***Welcoming of Visitors***

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

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Call to Worship***

One: Jesus of Nazareth requests your presence at a dinner to be given in

 His honour.  The time for the dinner is now.  Jesus is the host.  We

 are the guests.  Are you ready to participate?

**ALL: We come with thanks for the privilege of being guests of Jesus**

 **Christ.**

***Hymn:* VU#395***“Come In, Come In and Sit Down”*

*The children wishing to go to the Activity Room may leave with*

*Joy Dawdy during the singing of the Hymn.*

***Opening Prayer*** *(Unison)*

 **God, we come together as Your people.  We come as a praising**

 **people, singing Your goodness.  We come as a praying people,**

 **bringing our needs, our joys.  We come as a listening people,**

 **opening to Your Word.  Be pleased to fill us with Your love and**

 **empower us for faithful living, we pray.  Amen.**

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

***Old Testament Reading:*** VU#838 Psalm 119 (Part One)

*Reader: This is the Word of God*

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

***Gospel Reading:*** Matthew 22:34-40

*Reader: This is the Gospel Message.*

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

***\* Hymn of Preparation: VU* #266** “*Amazing Grace”*

***The Message – Grace***

***Prayers of the People***

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

***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 give to others.**

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

***Offertory Prayer***

***God Invites Us To Break Bread Together***

***Invitation to Communion***

 One: In the name of the One who said,

 **ALL: “I am the bread of life,”**

 One: I invite you to come and eat.  In the name of the One who said,

 **ALL: “I am the true vine,”**

 One: I invite you to come and drink.  In the name of the One who said,

 **ALL: “Love one another, as I have loved you.”**

 One: I invite you to the table of Jesus Christ.

***Communion Hymn:* VU#402** *“We Are One”*

***Great Thanksgiving***

 One: The Holy One is here.

 **ALL: God’s Spirit is with us.**

 One: Lift up your hearts.

 **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

 One: Let us give thanks to God.

 **ALL: It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

 One: God, in Your timing, you sent Jesus, in every aspect human as we

 are.  He grew up in a small town in Galilee, far from the seat of

 religious and civil power.

 **ALL: He spoke with a distinct accent.  He learned of the breadth of**

 **Your grace from a caring and loving mother.  Beside Jacob’s**

 **well, he was moved by an encounter with a minority woman**

 **and disclosed his Messianic identity.**

 One: Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth we recognize the

 fullness of Your grace.

 **ALL: in words that confront and comfort us, in teachings that**

 **challenge and change us, in compassion that heals and frees**

 **us.**

 One: On the last night he spent with his friends, Jesus took an age-old

 tradition of his people and transformed it into something new.

 He took bread, staple food of his land, blessed and broke it, and

 gave it to those around him saying,

 **ALL: “Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.  Whenever you**

 **do this, remember me.”**

One: After supper he took a cup of wine, common drink of his people,

 and gave it to them, saying,

 **ALL: “Drink this, all of you, this is the new covenant in my**

 **blood.  Each time you do this, remember me.”**

 One: By remembering Jesus in this way now, we claim our common

 heritage as we proclaim

 **ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

***Invitation***

***Sharing the Bread and the Juice***

***Prayer after Communion*** (Unison)

 **Thank you, Jesus, for your gifts of grace – forgiveness and love.**

 **Be pleased to strengthen our faith, and increase our love for one**

 **another.  May the Holy Spirit enable us to leave this place with**

 **courage and hope.  Amen.**

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

***Closing Hymn***  **VU# 639**  *“One More Step Along the World I Go”*

***Sending Forth***

***Threefold Amen***

***Musical Postlude***

*We welcome the Rev. John Brown as our Guest Minister and Paula Thomas as our Music Leader this morning. Thank you both for sharing with us today!*

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**August 5, 2018**

Rev. Emmanuel Ofori is on vacation for the month of August.

Rev. John Brown will be covering for Pastoral Emergencies.

If you have a Pastoral Emergency,

please contact the church office

(519-631-7570 or office@1stunitedchurch.ca)

to be put in touch with Rev. Brown.

**Happy birthday this week to:** Gillian Dronyk, Sarah Muma, Cheryl Muma, Craig Whiteman.

**TODAY:** \***Faith Activity Room** for children 4 & up in the Music Room.

\*Join us in the Fellowship Room for **refreshments** following the worship service!

**Upcoming Dates & Events**

If you’d like to volunteer to serve **Summer Lemonade in the Fellowship Room** following Sunday worship please call Ruth Zions @ 226-289-3055.

**Don’t forget to register for Vacation Bible Camp**!!

There are still spaces available!

