**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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December 29, 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*

*Intentional Interim Minister: Rev. Daryl Webber*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*

Order of Service

\* You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***Welcome***

***Opening Prayer***

***Choral Prelude***: VU#91 “The First Nowell” (v 1-4)

1. **The first Nowell the angel did say  
   was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
   in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep  
   on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**[Refrain:]  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

1. **They looked up and saw a star,  
   shining in the east beyond them far;  
   and to the earth it gave great light,  
   and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]**
2. **And by the light of that same star  
   three wise men came from country far;  
   to seek for a king was their intent,  
   and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]**
3. **This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
   o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
   and there it did both stop and stay  
   right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]**

***Call to Worship***: Psalm 130

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

**All: Lord, hear my voice.**

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

One: If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
**All: Lord, who could stand?**  
One: But with you there is forgiveness,  
**All: so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

One: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,

**All: and in his word I put my hope.**One: I wait for the Lord  
**All: more than watchmen wait for the morning,**  
One: Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
**All: for with the Lord is unfailing love**

**and with him is full redemption.**  
One: He himself will redeem Israel  
**All: from all their sins.**

***Life & Work of the Church***

***Passing the Peace***

**The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you, Alleluia!**

**God’s in us and we’re in God, Alleluia! (3x)**

***Prayer/Lord's Prayer***

***Offering Ourselves, Tithes & Gifts***

***Dedication Hymn:*** (tune “Eidelweiss”)

**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,**

***Scripture Reading***: Galatians 5:22-26

***Hymn:***  VU#48 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (v 1 & 2)

1. **Hark! the herald angels sing ,  
   "Glory to the newborn King,  
   peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
   God and sinners reconciled!"  
   Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
   join the triumph of the skies;  
   with the angelic hosts proclaim,  
   "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**[Refrain:]  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

1. **Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
   Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
   late in time behold him come,  
   offspring of a virgin's womb.  
   Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
   hail the incarnate deity.  
   pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
   Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]**

***Children's Story & Sermon:*** "2020"

***Hymn:***  VU#48 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (v 3)

1. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
   Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
   Light and life to all he brings,  
   risen with healing in his wings.  
   Mild he lays his glory by,  
   born that we no more may die,  
   born to raise us from the earth,  
   born to give us second birth.

**[Refrain:]  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

***Commissioning/Benediction***

***Closing - Sing:*** VU#33 “Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope/Peace/Joy/Love”

**Jesus came bringing us Hope/Peace/Joy/Love,**

**Jesus came bringing us Hope/Peace/Joy/Love,**

**Jesus came bringing us Hope/Peace/Joy/Love,**

**hallelujah forever more!**

***\* Musical Postlude***

*Thank you to Chris Ross for leading worship this morning!*

*Thank you to Paula Thomas for sharing her gift of music today!*

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**December 29, 2019**

***\*Looking for Board Members:*** The church requires many hours of volunteer work to make it run smoothly.  If you are able to serve or know of someone who would be good to serve on our Official Board please talk to an existing member of the Board, or Lori in the church office

\*At First we love having a time of **Fellowship after Worship on Sundays!**

It’s a time to greet friends, new and old, over a drink & maybe a goody!! If this is something you would enjoy hosting, you are invited to sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Room (Drinks supplied – coffee would just need to be put on in the morning!). We’d love to have you!

\*Would you be **willing to participate or lead the worship service**?  If so please speak to Rev. Daryl, Richard Auckland or one of the worship team leaders.

**A Note from Lori & the Finance Committee**

**The 2020 Offering envelopes are ready for pickup in the Library.**

**IMPORTANT: Please note – ALL Numbers have changed!**

To reduce costs and save trees we have done a complete overhaul of the numbering of our offering envelopes for 2020! We reduced the number of sets given out (removed those who didn’t use / or didn’t pick up their envelopes resulting in them being thrown out at year end) – and we were able to reduce our numbers by 200 sets!!! BIG SAVINGS! Over $400!)

**PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY OLD ENVELOPES OR ENVELOPE NUMBERS AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2019!** *Doing so could cause your offering to be inadvertently credited to another person*.

If you go to pick up a set of envelopes and there isn’t one there with your name on it, please contact Lori in the office and she can arrange to get you a set.

We are hoping to only distribute envelopes to those who use them on a regular basis. If you give monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. (that’s great – no problem!) – you have been assigned a number that does not have actual envelopes but your offerings will be credited to it. Just place your cheque on the offering plate (or in a plain envelope if you’d prefer) and we’ll look after it! If you’d like to KNOW the number you’ve been assigned to write it on your cheque/blank envelope, Lori can give you that information. Thank you so much for your co-operation as we go through this numbering transition!!

**FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE …..**

Lori is on holidays from Friday, December 20 to Monday, January 6 inclusive. If you would like to make a **DONATION FOR THE YEAR 2019** – please place it through the Curtis Street mail slot, slip it under my Office Door or mail it to the Church. You may come in on Tuesday, January 7 if you would like to see me in person. The final deposit for 2019 Givings will be made at 3pm on Tuesday, January 7. Donations received after this time will be credited to your 2020 Givings*. Best wishes, Lori*

**REMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS & GROUP LEADERS: All ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS** are needed in the office before January 15, 2019. Thank you.