**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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February 03, 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*

**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

**PREACHER: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori**

**\*** You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***We Gather Together***

***Opening Prayer***

***Choral Musical Prelude***:

1. **MV#156** *“Dance with the Spirit” (2x)*

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’**

**Walk with Spirit throughout the long day,**

**Work and hope for the new life abornin’,**

**Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

1. *“That’s Why We Praise Him”* (Chorus only) *(2x)*

**That’s why we praise him, that’s why we sing**

**That’s why we offer him our everything**

**That’s why we bow down, and worship this King**

**‘Cause He gave His everything**

**‘Cause He gave His everything.**

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.**

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

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

***Welcome/Life and Work of the Church***

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship:*** Responsive Reading (Luke 1:47-55)**VU pg #898**

***Sunday School children may go downstairs***

***Hymn:* VU *#562 “****Jesus Calls Us****”*** [vs. 1, 5]

***Reception of new member***

***Ministry of Music:*** *Senior Choir*

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering/Song Ministration:***

***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***

***We Break Bread Together***

***\* Communion Hymn:* VU#501***“Break Now the Bread of Life”*

God be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift up our hearts unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks to God

**It is good and pleasant to give God thanks and praise**

It is good and pleasant thing, our joy and our moral duty, … to give you thanks and praise,… Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the heavenly host, we join in the hymn of everlasting praise saying …

**Holy, holy, holy, LORD God of hosts,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Glory be to you, O Lord, most high. Amen.**

***Prayer of Consecration***

***Invitation***

***Distribution of Elements***

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***Scripture Readings:*** Exodus 17:8-13; Acts 6:1-4

Reader: This is the Word of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

***\* Hymn of Preparation: VU #385* “***Spirit Dive, Attend Our Prayers***”**

***The Message:*** “Telephone to Heaven”

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:* VU#431** *“Sing Amen”*

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:* MV#209***“Go Make a Diff’rence”*

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

As a community of faith, First United has a vision of becoming a ***vibrant*** church …

* a church that *worships* the Lord with joy;
* a church that *engages* the youth and young families in ministry;
* a church that *reaches out* to others with the love of God in Christ.

One of the marks of a vibrant church is ***prayer***. We find this in the life of the early believers in the New Testament. Theirs was a vibrant church because it was a ***praying*** church. The Early Church models for us what it means to be a praying church.

1. Prayed together – first congregational prayer meeting (Acts 1:14)
2. Prayed before choosing replacement of Judas (1:24)
3. Prayed in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1)
4. Prayed for boldness after persecution (Acts 4:24-31)
5. Prayed before choosing leaders – great growth resulted (Acts 6:6-7)
6. Prayed the dead back to life – resulting in growth (Acts 9:40-42)
7. Prayed for the release of Peter from prison (Acts 12:12)
8. Prayed before sending forth the first Missions Team (Acts 13:1-3)
9. Prayed in prison – jailer and household converted (Acts 16:25)

**Think about this:**

* God acts in response to the prayers of God’s people.
* Make a commitment to be a praying believer; Keep praying for First United, youth and young families, and our city.