**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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 By Mary C.

February 23 2020 @ 10:30am

Order of Service

\* You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***Musical Prelude***

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

***Choral Musical Prelude***

1. MV#25 “O God, Send Out Your Spirit”

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

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

1. MV#90 “Don’t Be Afraid”

**Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,**

**my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger**

**and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

***Call to Worship***

One: God of Creation;

**All: In the cardinal through whom our ancestors are said to flit among**

**us, among the Poplar Trees, content to stand together in a frozen**

**flood plain,**

One: Strong in the one remnant insect this winter-

Spotted just last week, persevering in its assent up a snow boot’s

impression.

**All: O, Bathe our humanity in the wilds of your hermitages,**

**Seep into every portal of ours with delight and contentment,**

**and soak us in those eternal Cathedrals You call home.**

ne: God of Creativity;

**All: everywhere we stand, inhale, breathe,**

One: Everywhere we wait in attentive stillness,

**All: You offer us dwelling places to settle and heal**

One: And recreate us for what lies beyond anxiety and trauma.

One: God of Life’s course;

**All: There is no dogma or religion that confines you.**

One: There is no poem, or song that defines you.

**All: You are known only in the journey,**

One: Met in the Temples you call us into,

**All: Heard through the songs you sing into our hearts,**

One: and comprehended,

especially when we sense you are reclaiming us.

All: **Holy are You, and Holy is the day you have brought to us.**

**We delight, as ever, in this tent of meeting.**

(Daryl Webber, 2020 inspired by a Sparta Conservation Hike and company!)

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

**I am the light of world, you people come and follow me.**

**If we follow and love, we’ll learn the mystery**

**Of what we were meant to do and be.**

***Opening Prayer***

**In great humility,**

**We recognize**

**That something within us**

**Bears witness**

**To your Holy Spirit, O Divine One.**

**Spirit has moved in the realities of our lives**

**In momentous ways and**

**each time,**

**you heal us deeper into life.**

**Each time,**

**our assumptions change about the Deity,**

**you open our Holy eyes to see our neighbours anew.**

**It is in great humility,**

**We come to give thanks,**

**And give testimony to a courageous work**

**That has been set loose**

 **in the way the world**

**is beheld by us. Amen.**  (Daryl Webber, 2020)

***Passing of the Peace***

**Sing: Halle, Halle, Halle, lu jah! Halle, Halle, Halle, lu jah!**

 **Halle, Halle, Halle, lu jah! Halle lu jah! (clap) Halle lu jah!**

***Musical Offering:*** Senior Choir

***Conversation with the Young People***

***Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn****:* VU#641 “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” (v 1, 2)

***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, Bless this offering we bring you.**

***Scripture Reading:*** Matthew 17:1-9

 ***The Message:*** Rev. Daryl Webber

Introduction to “Loving God. Living Word.” Series.

“Steps of Faith”

***\*Hymn****:* VU#625 “I Feel the Winds of God Today”

***\*Commissioning***

Let nothing disturb you;

Let nothing dismay you;

All things pass:

God never changes.

Patience attains

All it strives for.

Those who have God

Find they lack nothing:

God alone suffices. (Teresa of Avila)

***\*Benediction***

 ***Closing - Sing:* 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***

***Thank you to Dr. Wayne Carroll***

***for sharing his musical gifts on the organ.***

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**February 23, 2020**

**Happy birthday to**: Bev Glass, Mike Vecchio, Adam Derganc.

**\*TODAY**: \*Join us for Coffee, Cold drinks & Conversation in the Fellowship Room following worship.

(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.

**This week:**

**Tuesday: \*EarlyON Playgroup** in the Gym - 9:30 – 11:30am

**\*Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** in the Assembly Hall from 4:30-6:30pm. Pancakes, sausage, baked beans, dessert & beverage. Adults $6.00; Children 5-10 $4.00; Children 4 & under FREE. (Gluten Free Options Available)

\***First Youth** with Chris Ross & Justin Chute in Room 3/Gym from 7-8:15pm.

**Wednesday** – \*“Dust & Glory – The Road Ahead” **Ash Wednesday Service.** An Ecumenical Gathering at St. Andrew’s United Church (60 West Ave, St. Thomas) @ 10:30am. All welcome.

**Thursday**

**\*Sr. Choir @ 7:30pm!** Don’t be shy – singing’s great for the soul – come and give it a try!

**Next Sunday, March 1 –** \*Baptism

**Friday, March 6 – \*World Day of Prayer** @ Central United Church

**Monday, March 9 - \*Official Board Meeting** @ 7pm.

**Monday, March 23** - We will be holding our 2nd **Quarter Auction**!

Doors open at 6 p.m. Auction starts at 7:00 p.m.
We will have vendors for shopping and food will be available for purchase. Join us for this super fun event! Admission is $5 (includes 1 paddle) Extra paddles are $2 each.

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**Church Office Hours**

Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 3:30pm

(Closed from 12-1pm for lunch)

*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*