**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*



“Suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.”

January 12, 2020 @ 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

***Musical Prelude***

***Welcome***

***Choral Musical Prelude***

1. “Bless the Lord…” (3x)

**Bless the Lord, O my Soul,**

**O my Soul**

**Worship His holy name,**

**Sing like never before**

**O my Soul**

**I’ll worship your holy name.**

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***

One: God is Holy Mystery,

beyond complete knowledge

above perfect description.

**All: Yet, in love**

 **The one eternal God seeks relationship.**

One: So God creates the universe

 and with it the possibility of being and relating.

**All: God tends the Universe,**

 **mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.**

One: God enlivens the universe,

 guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.

**All: Grateful for God’s loving action,**

 **We cannot keep from singing.**

***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***

One: We come in Thanksgiving, that through the power

of your Spirit you create life out of nothingness.

**All: You can persuade beauty to flower,**

**where before there was ugliness.**

One: You can bring peace to quell conflict and hope

where there was once only despair.

**All: We want to work with you Holy Spirit**

 **to heal the wounds and fill the emptiness,**

One: to nourish the beauty of this world,

 and to promote harmony among all your children.

**All: We pray all this in the name of the Christ**

 **who calls us here to pray.**

***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

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

***Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn****:* VU#378 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” (v 1 & 3)

***Conversation with the Young People***

***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 Readings: Matthew 3:13-17; Isaiah 42:1-9***

***The Message: “****The Song of Faith” Rev. Daryl Webber*

*Song of Faith #1*

VU#260 “God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness” (v. 1)

**God who gives to life its goodness, God creator of all joy,**

**God who gives to us our freedom, God who blesses tool and toy:**

**Teach us now to laugh and praise you, deep within your praises sing,**

**Till the whole creation dances for the goodness of its King.**

*Song of Faith #2*

VU#402 “We Are One” (v 1 & 2)

**We are one as we come; as we come, joyful to be here,**

**In the praise on our lips there’s a sense that God is near.**

**We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found,**

**And we come needful of God’s grace as we meet,**

**together in this place.**

**We are one as we share, as we share, as we share brokenness fear,**

**In the touch of a hand there’s a sense that God is here.**

**We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed,**

**And we share warmth in God’s embrace as we pray**

**Together in this place.**

*Song of Faith #3*

VU#179 “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks”

**Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God’s name.**

***Hymn****:* VU#381”Spirit of Life”

***\*Commissioning/ 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.**

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**January 12, 2020**

**Happy birthday to**: Abby West, Sam Nicol

**\*TODAY:** You are invited to join us refreshments in the Fellowship following worship.

**This week:**

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

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

**\*Official Board** meets @ 7pm in the Music Room

**Wednesday: \*REMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS & GROUP LEADERS: All ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS** are needed in the office before January 15, 2020. Thank you.

**Thursday**

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

\*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**

**There are still a few sets of 2020 Offering envelopes in the Library waiting to be picked up!**

**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!)

**REMINDER!! PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY OLD ENVELOPES OR ENVELOPE NUMBERS!** *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!!