**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*

A person sitting on the ground

Description automatically generated

Jesus turned and saw them following,

he said to them, “What are you looking for?”

John 1:38

January 19, 2020 @ 10:30am

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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. MV#90 “Don’t Be Afraid” (2x)

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

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

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

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

1. MV#221 “I Am Walking a Path of Peace” (2x)

**I am walking a path of peace,**

**I am walking a path of peace,**

**I am walking a path of peace,**

**lead me home, lead me home.**

***Call to Worship***

To the First United Church community of God in St. Thomas,

to you who have been dedicated in Christ Jesus.

You were called to be God’s holy people

with all people everywhere who pray.

Grace and peace to you from God our Hope

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God for you

because of the gift God has given you in Christ Jesus.

I thank God because in Christ you have been made rich

in every way, in all your spiritual gifts and in all your knowledge.

Just as our witness about Christ has been confirmed among you,

so you have every spiritual gift from God

while you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus will keep you strong until the end

so that there will be nothing lacking in you

on the day our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

God who has called you into partnership with his Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. *(adapted from 1 Cor. 1:2-9)*

***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***

**All: Almighty and Gracious God,**

**we have gathered at the foot of the Cross,**

**coming from the East, the West, the North and the South.**

**Here in this Holy place we feel a strong kinship**

**because You are the center of our being.**

**But when we leave this Sanctuary,**

**the world is full of noise, notoriety,**

**and we feel like nobodies.**

**Help us, O Holy Spirit, to be bold for the people of Color**

**that we might be the instruments of peace.**

**Help us to show the way, that we might all be one.**

**We have seen your mighty Hand work miracles in this world.**

**We stand together with joy and appreciation for each other.**

**May our love enable us to make one giant step for humanity**

**under the banner of Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**May God’s name be praised forever! Amen.**

For Courage, For Peace, For Unity was written by the Rev. Norma Nomura

DeSaegher for The Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM)

***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***

***Conversation with the Young People***

***Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn****:* “Awesome God” (2x)

**Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above**

**with wisdom, power and love. Our God is an awesome God.**

***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: John 1:29-42***

Excerpts from Dr. King’s Speech “I Have a Dream”

Reader:

“Even though we must face difficulties to today and tomorrow, I still

have a dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and

live out the true meaning of its creed—we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal.”

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons and

daughters of former slaves and sons and daughters of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood

and sisterhood.”

Sung response: **Kindle Your Light Within**

**(Tune Pussywillows, Cat-tails. G.Lightfoot)**

**Em D C Em**

**Kindle Your light within me, define all my shadows**

**Em D C Em**

**Kindle Your dream within us, seep into my life…**

Am7 D G Em

**More and more give radiance, to our flickering candle-life**

**D C Em A Am Em**

**fresh vigor for your intent, and a waking spirit.**

Howard Thurman, Meditations of the Heart, p. 160

Reader:

“I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation

where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the

content of their character.

“I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill

and mountain shall be made low, the rough places shall be made plain,

and the crooked places shall be made straight and the glory of the

Lord will be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.”

Sung response: **Kindle Your Light Within**

**(Tune Pussywillows, Cat-tails. G.Lightfoot)**

**Em D C Em**

**Kindle Your light within me, define all my shadows**

**Em D C Em**

**Kindle Your dream within us, seep into my life…**

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Reader:

“This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing

with new meaning—‘my country, ’tis of thee; sweet land of liberty; of

the I sing; land where my fathers died; land of the pilgrim’s pride;

from every mountainside, let freedom ring.’”

“When we allow freedom to ring from every town and every hamlet,

from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day

when all of God’s children—black men and women and white men

and women, Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants—will be

able to join hands and to sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual”:

**All:**

**“Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”**

Sung response: **Kindle Your Light Within**

**(Tune Pussywillows, Cat-tails. G.Lightfoot)**

**Em D C Em**

**Kindle Your light within me, define all my shadows**

**Em D C Em**

**Kindle Your dream within us, seep into my life…**

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***The Message: “****What Are You Looking For?” Rev. Daryl Webber*

***Hymn****:* MV #149 “Peace for the Children” (v1, 4, 5, & 10)

***\*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.**

***Musical Postlude***

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**January 19, 2020**

**Happy birthday to**: Jerome Thomas, Alison Apfelbeck, Karen Auckland, Benjamin Turvey.

**\*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.

**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!**

**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.

**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*