**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 drawing of a horse

Description automatically generated

**Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.**

**Matthew 4:19**

January 26, 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. MV#157 “I Am a Child of God” (2x)

**I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God’s new creation.**

**I am a child of God, I am a child of God.**

1. MV#14 “Where Two or Three Are Gathered” (2x)

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,**

**I am there, I am there.**

***Call to Worship***

One: Winter is Divinity unfolding:

glamorous ice adorns grey tree limbs,

moon studs diamonds in a snowbank,

silence falls with the snowflakes.

**All: Sacred Source, You dwell everywhere on the surface here,**

**and somewhere beneath this snow-cover,**

**you warm the root of life still.**

One: Though the ground is frozen, creation is yet wild and flowing,

and we who dwell as witnesses here,

are more than vagrants

dropping our boots through the snowbanks.

**All: We are the bundled children of the Earth**

**dusted here with belonging,**

**and warmed with your Divinity unfolding,**

**unfettered for the joy of being.**

**Here – we are.**  (Daryl Webber, 2014)

***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: Gather us together, Great Spirit

**All: Fill your hearts here with goodness,**

**your worship with creativity,**

**your world with new possibilities,**

**and your church with promised gifts.**

One: Gather and fill us, Great Spirit

in these days of winter,

**All: with all those things you have stored up for us.**

(Daryl Webber, 2015)

***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****:* VU#567 “Will You Come & Follow Me” (v 1, 2 & 5)

1. **Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

**Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown, will you let me name be known,**

**Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

1. **Will you leave yourself behind if I but call you name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?**

**Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

1. **Christ you summons echoes true when you but call my name.**

**Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.**

**In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

***Offering Ourselves, Tithes & Gifts:*** Solo: Alvin Epp

***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 4:12-23***

***Psalm 27*** (VU pg. 754)

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

***Hymn****:* VU#563 “Jesus You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

1. **Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore**

**looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;**

**you only asked me to follow humbly.**

**Refrain: O Jesus, with you eyes you have searched me**

**and while smiling have spoken my name,**

**now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me;**

**by your side I will seek other seas.**

1. **You know so well my possessions;**

**my boat carries no gold and no weapons;**

**you will find there my nets and labour.** (Refrain)

1. **You need my hands, full of caring**

**through my labours to give others rest,**

**and constant love that keeps on loving.** (Refrain)

1. **You, who have fished other oceans,**

**Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,**

**My loving friend, as thus you call me**. (Refrain)

***\*Commissioning*** VU #918 “A New Creed”

**We are not alone,**

**we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others**

**by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God’s presence,**

**to live with respect in creation,**

**to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

***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 26, 2020**

**Happy birthday to**: Wayne Smith, Geoffrey Auckland, Alexandra Mogk.

**Happy anniversary to**: Jim & June Harris

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

Everyone is asked to **email in photos from the last year or so** to capture our life together (you can bring photos in to the office if you don’t email 😊). These photos will be shared in a slideshow on Sunday, February 9 at the Annual Meeting. Please send them to [office@1stunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@1stunitedchurch.ca) Thank you!

**Monday \*Coffee with Rev. Daryl** from 10-11am.

**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!

**Next Sunday: \*2019 Tax Receipts** will be available following worship in Lori’s Office (available in the office up until Sunday, February 9 – then they will be put in the mail).

**\*Annual Reports** will be available to take home – **Please remember to bring them back for the Annual Meeting on February 9.**

**Sunday, February 9 – Annual General Meeting of the Congregation** following worship in the Assembly Hall.

**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)