**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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July 01, 2018 @ 10:30am

*7 Curtis St., St.Thomas, ON N5P 1H3 Phone: (519) 631-7570*

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*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*

**Sixth Sunday of Pentecost Sunday**

Canada Day Service

Sunday, July 01, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. Worship

Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori

***Notes***: Asterisk (\*) – You may stand if comfortable doing so

**VU** = Voices United **MV** = More Voices

***God Gathers Us Together***

***Musical/Choral Prelude***

1. **MV#8** “*And On This Path” (2x)*

**And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide, and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide, and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide! Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!**

1. **VU#471** *“Eat This Bread “(*2x)

**Eat this bread and never hunger, drink this cup and never thirst, Christ invites us to the table where the last become the first.**

***Opening Prayer***

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Life and Work of the Church*** [see insert]

***Welcoming of Visitors***

***God Draws Us Near To Worship***

***Call to Worship***

One: Come let us celebrate Canada’s 151st Birthday!

**All: Let us celebrate the gifts of those who have gone before us to build this great country.**

One: Let us remember that God is the foundation on which Canada was built and continues to thrive today.

**All: As we worship, let us consider our own gifts and role in building for our future.**

One: Let us worship God with joy and gratitude!

***Prayer (unison)***

**Generous Creator, thank You for this vast land of freedom, with its**

 **snow-capped mountains, fertile fields, flowing waters and soaring trees. Thank You for the rich diversity of language, culture and people, past**

 **and present who shared their talents and built this country.**

**May we be worthy heirs of the rights, gifts and freedoms we have**

 **inherited.**

**Help us to recognize You in words of truth, things of beauty, and actions**

 **of love about us.**

**Our Eternal “God keep our land glorious and free”, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

***Hymn: VU #412 “****This Is the Day” v 1, 2, 3*

*The Children may leave for the Activity Room with Joy Dawdy during the hymn*

***God Invites Us To Listen For His Word***

***Old Testament Reading: Psalm 72:1-11***

*Reader: This is the Word of God*

***All: Thanks be to God***

***\* Hymn of Preparation: VU#330 “****Jesus Shall Reign”*

***The Message:* “God Keep Our Land Glorious and Free”**

***\* Hymn: VU #524 “****O Canada”*

***God Invites Us To Respond To His Love***

***Offertory***

***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***

***God Invites Us To Break Bread Together***

***Communion Hymn:* VU#480** *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

**\**Apostles’ Creed (VU#918)***

***The Institution***

***Prayer of Consecration***

***Invitation & Distribution of Elements***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

***God Sends Out Into the World to Serve***

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

***\* Benediction/Sending Forth***

***Threefold Amen***

***\* Musical Postlude***

*Thank you to Paula Thomas for leading our Music Ministry today &*

*Thank you to Dr. Wayne Carroll for sharing on the organ.*

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

On July 1st we celebrate “Canada Day”. The original name of this celebration was “Dominion Day” which acknowledged the sovereignty of God over the land. Thus our Motto, Crest, National Anthem and Charter of Rights and Freedoms reflect Canada’s dependence on God whose “dominion is from sea to sea” (Psalm 72:8). All these call us to look back as a nation with thankful hearts. So, we at First United come together this morning to:

1. Praise God for our Land
2. We praise God for the righteous foundations of Canada
3. We praise God for the rich endowments of our land

Canada is blessed with …

1. Pray to God for our Land.

“God keep our land glorious and free”

1. God keep our land
2. Glorious and Free

**Think about this:**

God is looking for a generation who will rise up and reclaim the righteous foundations in our nation of Canada. Will you stand up and stand out to be counted?