**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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June 02, 2019 @ 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*

*Pastoral Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*

**PREACHER: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori**

**\*** You are invited to stand if comfortable doing so

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***We Gather Together***

***Opening Prayer***

***Choral Musical Prelude***:

1. MV#96 “And When you Call For Me” (2x)

**And when you call for me, I have already answered.**

**And when you call for me, I am already there.**

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.**

***Lighting of the Christ Candle:*** VU#87 “I Am the Light of the World”

***Passing of the Peace (*VU #958** *“Halle, Halle, Halle”****)***

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

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship:***

One: Jesus said, “I will build my church”. He welcomes us all in this place to come in and sit down for rest and restoration.

**All: MV #1 “Let Us Build a House” (vs 1, 3, 5)**

***Anthem: Senior Choir***

***Sunday School children may go downstairs***

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Hymn of Dedication (Doxology)***

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

***Offertory Prayer***

 ***We Break Bread Together***

***\* Communion Hymn***: MV #202 “Bread for the Journey”

God be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift up our hearts unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks to God

**It is good and pleasant to give God thanks and praise**

It is good and pleasant thing, our joy and our moral duty, … to give you thanks and praise,… Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the heavenly host, we join in the hymn of everlasting praise saying …

**Holy, holy, holy, LORD God of hosts,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Glory be to you, O Lord, most high. Amen.**

***Prayer of Consecration***

***Invitation***

***Distribution of Elements***

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***\* Hymn of Preparation:*** MV #161 “I Have Called You by Your Name”

***Scripture Readings:*** Isaiah 43:1-2, 14-19

Reader: This is the Word of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

***The Message:*** “Let Nothing Hold You Back or Down”

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:*** VU#481 “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:*** VU#298 “When You Walk From Here”

**When you walk from here, when you walk from here,**

**Walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God’s humble care.**

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

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

Setbacks will come your way. You can’t avoid them. You may lose a job, a relationship, or your health. And when you do, you start to fear.

* Fear keeps you locked in a prison and unable to develop your full potential.
* It keeps you from becoming all God wants you to be.
* It also keeps you from building a legacy that will last into eternity.

But you don’t have to stay afraid. God has provided a way for you to take to break free from fear. Be reminded that …

1. **God loves you so much.**

God will never stop loving you.

God’s love is unconditional and eternal.

*“****God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them . . . There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear****”*

(1 John 4:16, 18 NIV).

1. **God’s has good plan for you.**

***For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future*** (Jeremiah 29:11)

*“****We know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans****”*(Romans 8:28, TLB).

* The phrase “all that happens” fits into God’s good plan – not just the good stuff. God specializes in bringing good out of bad.
1. **God is always with you**

***“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine … I will be with you; When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned ...”*** (Isaiah 43:1-2)

***Think about this:***

* You can choose faith over fear. When you’re experiencing a setback, trusting God’s love, plan and presence is the only path forward.