**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*



June 17, 2018 @ 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*

**4th Sunday of Pentecost**

Sunday, June 17, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. Worship

Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emma Pipes

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

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

***God Gathers Us Together***

***Musical/Choral Prelude***

1. **MV#25** *“O God Send Out Your Spirit (2x)*

**O God, send out your Spirit; renew the face of the earth.**

**O God, send out your Spirit; renew the face of the earth.**

1. **MV#122** *“This is the Day” (1x)*

**This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice & be glad!**

**This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice & be glad! Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu! We will rejoice & be glad. Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu! We will rejoice & be glad.**

***Opening Prayer***

***\*Opening Hymn:* VU#227***“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Passing the Peace***

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

***Welcoming of Visitors***

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

***Call to Worship***

One: Gentle Spirit – blessed Parent, Father and Mother, We set this

 Sunday aside to remember our fathers. Fathers present at our birth…

**All: Who formed and nurtured us – played with us, took us to church,**

 **attended our school and sport events, shared meals and heard**

 **our dreams.**

One: We remember Fathers present in our youth

**All: who offered words of wisdom, friendship, shared a joke and a**

 **laugh, knowing becoming an adult can be challenging.**

One: We remember Fathers partially present

**All: Who guided and taught us when they could.**

One: We remember Fathers absent for reasons we understand,

**All:** **Who struggled to stay connected to us and showed their love**

 **even when they were far away.**

One: We remember Fathers absent for reasons we cannot understand,

 and for reasons we will never know.

**All: Who left an empty place that is hard to fill.**

One: We give thanks for mothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, siblings,

 friends and neighbours,

**All: Who were there for us if we didn’t have a father.**

One: We remember those who stood in as a father figure and mentor,

**All: Who are coaches, teachers, friends, neighbours and more.**

One: Most remarkably, we give thanks to you, Parent God whose presence

 is both father and mother, nurturing, encouraging, and with us, in

 both childhood and adulthood.

 **All: We ask for your comfort on this day, as we celebrate our fathers,**

 **both present and absent, and give thanks for the blessings that**

 **fathers can bring. Amen**.

***Musical Offering:*** “My Old Man” Rob MacMenamin

***Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession***

***The Lord’s Prayer (VU #960)***

***Senior Choir Anthem***

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

***Old Testament Reading: Psalm 20***

*Reader: This is the Word of God*

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

***New Testament Reading: Mark 4:26-34***

*Reader: This is the Word of God*

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

***\* Hymn of Preparation:* MV #126** *“Are You A Shepherd”*

***The Message:* “One in a Billion**” *Rev. Emma Pipes*

***Tribute to Fathers/Father Figures:*** Jonathan Renaud

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

***\*Closing Hymn:* MV#106** *“I Am The Dream”*

***\*Benediction***

***\*Sending Forth***

***Threefold Amen***

***Commissioning Hymn*: MV#209 “***Go Make a Diff’rence” (2x)*

 **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***