**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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March 17, 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*

**Lent 2**

**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 Prelude***

1. **MV#33** *“Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope”* (2x)

**Jesus came bringing us hope, Jesus came bringing us hope,**

**Jesus came bringing us hope, Hallelujah forever more!**

1. **MV#7** “Gather Us In” (2x)

**Gather us in, ground us in you. Gather us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.**

1. **MV#157** *“I Am a Child of God” (v. 1)*

**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.**

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

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

***Welcome***

***Life and Work of the Church*** (see insert)

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship:*** *Psalm 119:105-112***(VU#842)**

***Sacrament of Baptism***

***\* Hymn of Praise:* VU#453***“Out of Deep Unordered Water”*

***Church School Children may go downstairs***

***Thanksgiving/Intercessory Prayer***

***Anthem***: *Senior Choir*

***Prayers***

***Thanksgiving***

***Intercessory Prayer***

***Silence***

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Hymn/Song of Dedication***

**God of Love hear our prayer, bless this offering we bring you.**

**May our lives do you 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***

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***\* Hymn of Preparation:* VU #365 *“****Jesus Loves Me This I Know****”***

***Scripture Reading*** Reader: This is the Word of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

***The Message:* “Let God Talk To You**”

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:* VU#508***“Just As I Am”*

***\* 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.**

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

When “we are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ” (Rom 3:22), a new relationship begins. God wants to communicate with us because we can’t have a relationship without communication. We communicate with God through prayer; God communicates to us through the Bible, the Word of God.

The Word of God has been described as food (1 Peter 2:2), light (Psalm 119:105), mirror (James 1:23-25) and many more. To know the Bible, we need to study it as Paul tells us in **2 Timothy 2:15**

*“Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”*.

Personal study of the Bible is known as ***Personal Devotion*** or ***Quiet Time***.

Getting started with daily devotions takes only a bit of planning. There’s no set standard of what your devotional time should look like

1. **Before you start, you’ll need**
2. Bible
3. Notebook/pen to take notes (or a tablet for the same purpose)
4. Bible devotion notes or reading plan, e.g. *Our Daily Bread*
5. Quiet place
6. **What to do**
7. Bible – Read a passage of Scripture and meditate on it
8. Message – Write down what stands out to you.
9. Prayer – Pray about things Scripture brings to mind.
10. Action Plan – Write down a step or two that you need to take today or this week, based on what God is revealing to you

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

“*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for* ***teaching, rebuking, correcting*** *and* ***training*** *in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*” – Paul

**Think about this:**

* **You need the Word of God the way you need food to live.**
* **Have you allowed God to talk to you today? Are you listening?**

**NEXT WEEK:** “**Talk with other believers**” (Hebrews 10:19-25)