**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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

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

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***We Gather Together***

***Choral Prelude***

1. ***But all the morning sang his praises; waking birds and dancing wind; here he is, the Son of David; riding on to take his throne.  
   So all the city sang his praises; waking streets and dancing crowd; here he is, the Son of David; our Messiah, Son of God.***
2. ***Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!***

***Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!*** (2x)

***Opening Prayer***

***\*Hymn:* VU #112** *“All Glory, Laud and Honour”*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

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

***Welcome***

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

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship***

One: Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion!

**All: Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!**

One: Look, your king is coming to you.

**All: He is righteous and victorious,**

**yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—**

**even on a donkey’s colt.**

One: Bless the name of the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**All: Hosanna to the Christ, even the Lord Jesus, Son of David**

One: Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning, it’s now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN**

One: You are our God, and we will praise You!

**All: You are our God, and we will exalt You!**

One: O, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**All: His faithful love endures forever!**

***Silence***

***Prayers of the Faithful***

***Intercessory Prayer***

*We have prayed all these through Christ Jesus our Lord; He is the One who taught us to pray saying … “****Our Father …”***

***The Lord’s Prayer***

***Anthem*** – Senior Choir

***\* Children’s Palm Parade:***  “*Children of Jerusalem”* (see insert)

***We Listen for God’s Word***

***Scripture Readings***

O. T. Reading: *Isaiah 50:4-9a*

Reader: This is the Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: *Mark 11:1-11*

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: We praise you, O Christ.**

***\* Hymn of Preparation:*** VU #123 *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*”

***The Message:* “**The Lord Needs You”

***We Respond in Love***

***Offering***

***Doxology/Hymn***

***Offertory Prayer***

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:*** VU# 127 *“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”*

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Commissioning Hymn:*** *MV#213 “Take Up His Song`*

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

Jesus needed a means of transportation to properly enter Jerusalem; He found a donkey. But before the donkey could be used, it had to be untied.

Like the donkey many of us find ourselves tied down by various forms of “ropes”, limiting our freedom or preventing us from fully realizing our potential.

1. **It seems something needs “Untying” in you**
2. **P**ossessions and “stuff”
3. **L**ow Self-Esteem – feeling not good enough to be used of the Lord
4. **A**ddictions
5. **N**egativities – negative feelings towards others
6. **S**ins – past & present; power and guilt of sin
7. **The Lord loves you and wants to use you …**

Just as He needed the donkey for His divine purpose, so the Lord needs you today to fulfill very important assignment of God’s Kingdom. The Lord has power to “untie” and free you from all that limits you.

The Lord gently and sweetly says to you, son/daughter …

1. You are *accepted* (Romans 15:7)
2. You are *valuable* (1 Corinthians 7:23)
3. You are *capable* (2 Timothy 1:9; Philippians 4:13)

**Think about this:**

* The Lord thinks highly of you and is willing to undo all that is “tying” you down in your life; let nothing distract you or limit your freedom in Christ.
* “Spirit of the Living God; fall afresh on me” (VU #376)

**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*



*Sunday, March 25, 2018*

*10:30am*

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

*e-mail:* [*firstunited@bellnet.ca*](mailto:firstunited@bellnet.ca)

*web: www.firstunitedchurch.weebly.com*

*MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD*

*Pastoral Minister: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori*

*Music Minister: Jody McDonald-Groulx*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Lori Hoffman*

*Custodian: Dave Luftenegger*