**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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May 19, 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

***Notes***: Asterisk (\*) – You may stand if able

***God Gathers Us Together***

***Opening Prayer***

***Musical/Choral Prelude:***

1. MV#30 “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker”
2. MV#21 “Open Our Hearts” (2x)

**Open our hearts, open our minds.**

**Open our lives to you O loving God.**

**(Open our hearts)**

***Life and Work of the Church***

***Welcoming of Visitors***

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

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

***Call to Worship*** [Using the song, “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”]

*Choir: singing verse 1*

One: What magnificent diversity we have in the church!

All**: God has called us to this place to share our gifts and talents.**

*Sisters: singing verse 2*

One: There are so many ways that we can serve the Lord in the church!

**All: We pray that God will enable us to use our talents to help others.**

*Brothers: singing verse 3*

One: Our lives should be prayers of thanksgiving to God.

All: **Let our hearts be open and our voices raise in song to God who continually blesses our lives.**

*ALL: singing verse 4*

***Intercessory Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer (VU #960)***

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

***Circle Time:***

***Hymn/Chorus:*** MV#156 “Dance with the Spirit” (2x)

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’,**

**walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.**

**Work and hope for the new life abornin,**

**listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

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

***Offertory***

***Offertory Dedication Hymn***

**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 Listen For His Word***

***Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20***

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

***\*Sermon Hymn:* VU #331** “*The Church’s One Foundation*”

***Message:*** “I Will Build My Church”

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

***\*Closing Hymn:*** “We are the church” (vv 1, 2, 4)

***\* 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**

Jesus said, “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18)

What does He mean?

Does He mean He will put buildings all over the world?

**What is the church?** (1 Peter 2:9)

It is not a building. Nor is it a corporation with a cross on top.

It is His people, gathered anywhere in His name through faith in Him.

**What are the distinguishing marks of the church?**

A statement of the Nicene Creed (**VU # 920**) reads

“We believe in ***one*** ***holy*** ***catholic*** and ***apostolic*** Church”

**How would you describe the church?**

Any metaphors that come into your mind?

**In your own understanding, what is purpose of church?**

**Think about this:**

When you think of the church as the fellowship of all true believers in Christ throughout all time, how does it affect the way you think of yourself as an individual Christian?