**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 5, 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*

 **Third Sunday after Easter**

**Guest Speaker: Richard Auckland**

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

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

***We Gather Together***

***Opening Prayer***

***Choral Prelude***

1. MV#92 “Like A Rock” (2x)

**Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.**

**Like the starry night sky, God is over our head.**

**Like the sun on the horizon, God is ever before.**

**Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.**

1. “Awesome God” (2x)

**Our God is an awesome God, and reigns from heaven above**

**with wisdom, pow’r and love, Our God is an awesome God.**

***Lighting of the Christ Candle*** (2x)

The Kennington Family – Deb, Gavin and Georgia

**I am the Light of the world! You people come and follow me!**

**If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery**

**of what you were meant to do and be.**

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

***Welcome***

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

***We Draw Near to Worship***

***Call to Worship***

***Circle Time***

***(children go to Sunday School)***

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

***Prayers***

***Thanksgiving/ Intercessory Prayer***

***Silent Reflection***

***Lord’s Prayer (said)***

***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#331 “The Church’s One Foundation”

***Scripture Readings:*** 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31 Gerdy MacKay

***The Message: Where We’ve Been, Where We are, Where Are We Going?***

 ***(Our past, present & future.)***

***We Go Out to Serve***

***\*Closing Hymn:*** VU#509 “Here I Am Lord”

***\* Commissioning Hymn:*** “MV#209 “Go Make a Diff’rence”

***\* Benediction***

***\* Triple Amen***

***\* Musical Postlude***

***Today’s Message***

***Past: \*The church has undergone many changes.***

***\*Many people have contributed to the success of First United.***

***\*Our ministers were our spiritual and institutional leaders.***

***\*We were a minister-lead congregation/church.***

***Present:***

***\*Emmanuel has brought many of the things we had asked for***

***in our profile/search***

***\*Artisan Sale, El Sistema Concert, Rummage Sale, Youth Groups, Sunday School, changes to church governance***

***\*Lots of Participation/Assistance***

***\*We are becoming more of a congregation-lead church***

***Future: \*Focus Groups***

 ***\*Decisions and Greater Involvement from the members***

 ***\*Stewardship***

***\*Where/how can you contribute? What will you help make our church become?***

***???***

***Our 2020 Vision: To be a vibrant community of faith, engaging all with a focus on youth and young families in ministry and reaching out to the world with the love of God in Christ.***