**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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Communion Sunday

September 02, 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*

**15th Sunday of Pentecost**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, September 02, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. Worship

Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori

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

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

***God Gathers Us Together***

***Musical/Choral Prelude***

1. **VU#467** *“One Bread, One Body”*

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,**

**one cup of blessing which we bless;**

**and we, though many, throughout the earth,**

**we are one body in this one Lord.**

1. **MV#18** *“Lord Prepare me”*

**Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary,**

**pure and holy, tried and true.**

**With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living**

**sanctuary for you.**

***Lighting of the Christ Candle***

***Life and Work of the Church*** [see pages 6 & 7]

***Welcoming of Visitors***

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

***Call to Worship***: VU#78 *(Psalm 45)*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession***

***The Lord’s Prayer*** *(VU #960)*

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

 ***Gospel Reading: Mark 7:1-16***

*Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ*

***All: We praise You, O Christ***

***\* Hymn of Preparation: VU* # 672** “*Take Time to Be Holy”*

***The Message: “***Striving for Inner Beauty”

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

***Offertory***

***Hymn of Dedication (Doxology)***

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures high and low;***

***Give thanks to God in love made known:***

***Creator, Word and Spirit One.***

***Offertory Prayer***

***God Invites Us To Break Bread Together***

***Communion Hymn:* MV#195***“Long Ago and Far Away”*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift up our hearts unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks to God

**It is good and pleasant to give God thanks and praise**

It is a good and pleasant thing, our joy and our moral duty, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, God, ever-loving and ever-blessed, Almighty and all-loving.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the heavenly host, we join in the blessed hymn of everlasting praise saying …

**Holy, holy, holy,**

**LORD God of hosts,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Glory be to you, O Lord, most high. Amen.**

**\**Affirmation of Faith:* A New Creed**

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
    the Word made flesh,
    to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
    by the Spirit.**

 **We trust in God.**

 **We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
    our judge and our hope.**

 **In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

***The Institution***

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the night He was betrayed and arrested He turned to His disciples and said,

**All: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”.**

Then Christ took bread and looking up to heaven gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying,

**All: “Take this and eat it. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

In the same way after Supper He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying,

**All: “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.”**

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of our faith …

**All: Jesus Christ has died**

**Jesus Christ is risen**

**Jesus Christ will come again**

**For deep in my heart, I do believe**

**That Jesus Christ will come again**

(Sung to tune: “*We Shall Overcome*” Traditional – arranged by compilers)

***Prayer of Consecration***

***Invitation & Distribution of Elements***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

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

***\*Closing Hymn:* MV#209** *“Go Make A Diff’rence”*

***\* Benediction***

***\*Sending Forth***

***Threefold Amen***

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman [man] who fears the LORD is to be praised” (Proverbs 31:30)

“Beauty? Let me tell you something … Beauty is essentially meaningless, and it is always transitory” (Actress Halle Berry, one of *People Magazine’s* most beautiful people).

If “beauty is fleeting” or “always transitory”, then what is true beauty? In the era of cosmetics, true beauty comes from within the person and Scripture teaches us to strive for inner beauty because there is

1. Power of Inner Beauty to Strengthen Us
2. Inner beauty has the power to draw others to Christ through us
3. Outward beauty and human traditions tend to drive people away from Christ.

Human traditions take credit which is due the Lord alone.

1. Plan of Inner Beauty to Guide Us

Take time to be holy (see Voices United #672)

1. Speak oft with the Lord – PRAYER
2. Feed on His word – PERSONAL DEVOTION
3. Make friend of God’s children – FELLOWSHIP with believers
4. Pattern of Inner Beauty for Others to Emulate

We are called to be examples to others.

**Think about this:**

Most of the time we allow human traditions come between you and the Word of God.

As we stay the Word, the Spirit of Christ will refine our nature till the beauty of Christ be seen is us

*Let us pray:*

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine

For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;

My gracious Redeemer, My Saviour art Thou

If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus, ‘tis now.

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**September 2, 2018**

**Happy birthday this week to:** Doug Whiteman, Madison Chute.

**TODAY:** \***Faith Activity Room** for children 4 & up in the Music Room.

\*Join us in the Fellowship Room for **refreshments** following the worship service!

**Upcoming Dates & Events**

If you’d like to volunteer (starting in September) to **MAKE & SERVE COFFEE** following Sunday worship please call Ruth Zions @ 226-289-3055.

**Next Sun., Sept. 9 – RALLY DAY** @ FIRST CHURCH (see next peage)

**Tues., Sept. 11 - OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING** @7pm in the Music Room

# Thurs., Sept. 13 - SENIOR CHOIR @ 7:30pm! Don’t be shy – singing’s great for the soul – come and give it a try!

**Sun., Sept. 16 – WORSHIP @ 10:30am**

**CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES! Then it’s Make Your Own Sundaes** in the Assembly Hall following worship!

*Next week!*

***Sunday, Sept. 9***

# RALLY DAY

# A TIME TO RALLY TOGETHER AFTER THE SUMMER!

**We’ll all be in worship together**

**younger and older alike**

**because that’s who we are!**



# Then, following worship

# STAY FOR A

# HOT DOG / HAMBURGER

# LUNCH!!

**Come & catch up with First Church Family & Friends!**

**Everyone Welcome!**

**Bring a Friend!!!**