**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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Rally Day

September 09, 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*

**Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

Rally Day Worship Service

Sunday, September 09, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.

Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel K. Ofori

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

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

***Musical/Choral Prelude***

**Jesus is a rock and He rolls my blues away,**

**Jesus is a rock and He rolls my blues away,**

**Jesus is a rock and He rolls my blues away!**

*\*\*Jody & Jerome will lead with the verses*

***Opening Prayer***

***Life and Work of the Church [see insert]***

***Welcoming of Visitors***

***Greetings: Peace of Christ (****Halle, Halle, Halle****)***

***Call to Worship*** *(Psalm 100, VU pg#820)*

***Prayer***

***Praise and Adoration***

***Intercession***

***The Lord’s Prayer***

***Hymn:* MV #104** *“Know that God is Good” (“Mungu ni mwema”)*

***Epistle Reading: James 2:1–10***

*Reader: This is the Word of God*

***All: Thanks be to God***

***Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-37***

*Reader: This is the Gospel Message*

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

***Hymn:* MV # 145** *“Draw the Circle Wide”*

***The Message:* “Embracing the Outsider”**

***Offertory***

***Hymn of Dedication***

***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***

***\*Closing Hymn:*** *“We Are the Church”*

***Chorus:***

***I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!***

***All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we’re the Church together.***

1. **The Church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,**

**the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.**

***Chorus***

1. **We’re many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,**

**all colours and all ages, too from all times and places.**

***Chorus***

1. **And when the people gather, there’s singing and there’s praying, there’s laughing and there’s crying sometimes, all of it is saying:**

***Chorus***

1. **I count if I am ninety, or nine or just a baby, There’s one thing I am sure about, and I don’t mean maybe:**

***Chorus***

***\* Benediction/Sending Forth***

***Threefold Amen***

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

***\* Musical Postlude***

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

Last week, we reflected on how we might strive for inner beauty and how we need to remove traditions that may stand in our way. Jesus calls us to a larger vision of mission – one that aims to embrace the outsider, the stranger, even the enemy. In fact, the Gospel message includes those unseen, unloved, unheard, unclothed, unfed, unsheltered, etc. in the day, time, and social milieu in which we find ourselves. This invites us to remove all forms of obstacles of …

1. **Race**
2. **Religion**
3. **Racism**
4. **Rejection**
5. **Reality**

**Think about this:**

We need a vision that embraces the outsider …

How might we, as a congregation, draw the circle wider to reflect the changing demographics or social strata of St. Thomas?