**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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September 16, 2018 @ 10:30am

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

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*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*

**17th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sunday, September 16, 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. **MV#122** *“This Is the Day” (2x)*
2. *``Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (2x)*

***Lord, I lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your praises. I’m so glad You’re in my life; I’m so glad You came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the way,***

***From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.***

***From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;***

***Lord, I lift Your name on high.***

***\* Opening Hymn:* VU#409***“Morning Has Broken”*

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

***Welcoming of Visitors***

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

***Call to Worship: VU pg#874 - Psalm 150***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession***

***The Lord’s Prayer (VU #960)***

***Senior Choir Anthem***

***Circle Time*** *(Children’s Story)*

***Hymn:* VU#365***“Jesus Loves Me”*

*Those wishing to go to Church School may do so during the hymn.*

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

 ***Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38***

 *Reader: This is the Gospel Message*

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

***\* Hymn of Preparation:* VU#330** *“Jesus Shall Reign”*

***The Message:* “The Question that Demands an Answer”**

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

***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***

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

***\*Closing Hymn:* MV#216***“Wherever You May Go”*

***\* Benediction***

***\*Sending Forth***

***Threefold Amen***

***Commissioning Hymn*: VU#298** *“When You Walk From Here”(2x)*

***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**

Consider the following questions:

* “***What shall I wear today?***” – very mundane and routine
* “***Why do men refuse to stop and ask for directions?***” – just plain unanswerable; really do not matter the least.
* “***Will you marry me?***”, or “***Doctor, what is my prognosis?***” – are all questions that have lifelong implications.

In Mark 8:27-30, Jesus asks two questions that are eternal in nature and they demand our honest answer.

1. Question One: **PROBING QUESTION**

Read Mark 8:27

The first question has to do with what others say about Jesus.

Their opinions of Him reveal the condition of their hearts.

1. Question Two: **PERSONAL QUESTION**

Read Mark 8:29

The second has to do with your personal opinion of Who Jesus is.

Your answer to this question will determine where you spend eternity.

Your response to these life’s ultimate question has implications for your life in the life-after-life

So, it is of vital importance that you carefully consider how you answer this question.

**Think about this:**

North American popular culture has different views about who Jesus is. Who do we as congregation of First United Church view Jesus?

What will be your final answer if Jesus were to appear and ask you this life’s ultimate and personal question, “Who do you say I am”? (Mk 8:29).