



St. Thomas United Church  
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

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**Sunday, April 2, 2017, 10:00am**  
**Theme: Hope Against All Hope**

† indicates stand as you are able  
**Bold** indicates participation by the people

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

**We Gather With**

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz: Hallelujah – by Leonard Cohen*

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

GREETING ONE ANOTHER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*A wicker prayer basket will be sent around. If you have a prayer, please print clearly on a prayer slip, place your prayer in the wicker basket, and pass the basket along.*

INTROIT: *God of the Bible (v.1 + chorus)*

**MV#28**

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE – *(Ron French)*

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

Wait and watch for God!

**Even when we feel in the depths of death and despair?**

Wait and watch for God!

**Even when life seems like a night that never ends?**

Wait and watch for God! In God there is constant love and kindness.

**We will wait and watch with hope.**

OPENING PRAYER: (*Unison*)

**Gracious God,**

**in the midst of death, you offer life.**

**In the midst of despair, you offer hope.**

**In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, you offer a new way  
of seeing things, a new way of understanding things.**

**Help us to remember this always. Amen.**

✠HYMN: *O God, How We Have Wandered*

**VU#112**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM - *Please see insert  
Gabriel Michael Kraft, son of Allison & Florian Kraft*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Strummers – Ask of Me*

*– Mary Foil & Douglas Nolan*

*(Children and Youth are invited to join their leaders at one  
of the entrances to the Sanctuary)*

SCRIPTURE: *“Lazarus” based on John 11:1-45 (NRSV)*

*Scripture Reader: Maureen Dodd*

***Affirmation:***

**One:** This is the witness of The Church,

**Many: thanks be to God!**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – Quiet Understanding*

*– by Lloyd Larson*

THE MESSAGE: *It's Never Too Late*

✠HYMN: *My Soul Cries Out*

**MV#120**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *A Congregational Giving Program*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

†OFFERTORY: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**VU#541**

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: (*Unison*)

**In hope we offer these gifts:**

**hope for a peaceful and fair world;**

**hope for an equal distribution of food, medicines, natural resources, and love;**

**hope for the well-being of Mother Earth;**

**hope for many future generations.**

**In hope we bring these gifts as hope for a peaceful and fair world.**

**Amen.**

CALL TO PRAYER: *Love Us into Fullness*

**MV#81**

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS (*Unison*)

†COMMISSIONING & BLESSING: (*Responsive*)

We go in peace,

**and wait upon our God.**

Know that, whatever happens, we are in God's care and protection,  
**and that God will watch over us always.**

No matter what may befall us,

**we are not alone.**

And so....

HYMN: *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope*

**MV#33**

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, The Strummers, Mark Wagner, Pat & Stu Robbins, Lynn & Nick Tait, Maureen Dodd, Kristin Raugust, Ron French, Lori Weller, Andrew Taylor-Kerr.