



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

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Sunday, October 1st, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: World Communion/Stewardship Sunday

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

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz – “Autumn Leaves” by Eva Cassidy*

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 request, please print clearly on a prayer slip, place it in the wicker basket, and pass the basket along.

INTROIT: *We Sing Thanksgiving (sung 2x) by Don Uhryniw and Arlene Gray*

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE – *Hilda MacDonald*

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

Come and recall the stories of our ancestors,

We will remember the glorious deeds of God.

Recall how God divided the seas and made the waters stand upright like walls.

We will remember the glorious deeds of God.

Recall how God led our ancestors with clouds and fiery lights.

We will remember the glorious deeds of God.

Recall how God made streams come out of the rock in the wilderness, causing water to flow down like rivers.

We will remember and tell new generations of the glorious deeds of God.

Come and worship God, who has and continues to do glorious deeds.

OPENING PRAYER: *(Leader)*

God, we thank you for words and actions that tell the story of who we are and from where we have come. We thank you for the abundance of your gifts, and for the ability to find something extraordinary in unexpected places. May we uncover something special in this sacred time together. Amen

†HYMN: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

VU#468

SCRIPTURE: *Genesis 28:10-22*

Reader: John Robertson

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Children's Choir- "Getting to Know You" – Rodgers & Hammerstein*

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

THE MESSAGE: *"Jacob's Divine Encounter"*

STEWARDSHIP INTRODUCTION & WEBSITE ROLLOUT

†HYMN: *Bread of Life, Feed My Soul*

MV#194

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP: *Wayne Pennington*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Youth Choir – Ava Maria*

– by Giulio Caccini

†OFFERTORY: *For the Beauty of the Earth*
(v.1) – sung to the tune of VU#81

VU#226

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: (*Unison*)

With humility we share these offerings with the church to further our ministry as a church dedicated to your service. With hope, we offer our gifts with each other so that together we can be more like Jesus. With love, we offer our praise and dedication to you, always. Amen

CALL TO PRAYER: *For the Fruit of All Creation* (vv 1&2) VU#227

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – *Please see insert*

†COMMISSIONING and BLESSING: (*Leader*)

Today we have remembered the glorious deeds of God.

We have recalled how God made streams come out of the rock in the wilderness, causing water to flow down like rivers.

Empowered and blessed by God the creator, Jesus the redeemer, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit, we must go and tell new generations of God's glorious deeds.

In our words, thoughts, and actions, may we proclaim the glorious deeds of our God.

HYMN: *We Sing Thanksgiving (Full Hymn)* by Don Uhryniw and Arlene Gray

POSTLUDE: *Kari Orosz*

We give great thanks to all who participated in making today's worship service a reality.

Sacrament of Communion for Seeking Right Relations

Adapted from and based on work of Teresa Burnett-Cole, Glebe-St. James U.C., Ottawa, Ont. Mississauga, Ont. Excerpted from Gathering Lent-Easter 2017, pp 86-87.

Invitation to the Table

In The United Church of Canada we affirm that everyone is equally wonderfully and mysteriously made by God who sees it all as good. These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. There are no barriers or limitations, no membership requirements or dues that must be paid; there are no judgments about how you identify, whom you love, or what has happened in your past; it isn't about how you understand God or the heritage you claim – here at this table you are simply, welcome. Here, there is room for all.

With joy we gather at this sacred table to be sacred community; to be the people called by God into new and everlasting life.

Welcome friends and relations!

We meet here in the presence of the Almighty Creator at this great feasting table of all people of faith.

This is not the table of St. Thomas United Church, or that of the United Church of Canada,

but rather the table of Jesus Christ who calls

each one of us to know a life faith as individual as the images of creation.

The Holy One who walked with our ancestors, walks with us now, and will walk with our children for years to come.

The Great Thanksgiving

In the very air that we breathe,

in the sound of whistling wind

and in the slap of the waves on the shore,

we give you thanks for your presence.

In the sound of children's laughter,

and in the songs of our elders,

we give you thanks for your presence.

Lift up your broken hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us honour our Creator.

It is right to honour God.

It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.

We give our thanks to God.

Creator and Giver of all life, Source of love.
We bless you for all your gifts.
You brought creation to birth and sent prophets
to awaken us to your great dream—
a dream in which everyone is treated with dignity and love,
justice and mercy, honour and hospitality.
We praise you for elders and prophets,
visionaries and leaders, teachers and preachers,
all who have shared the truth of your love.
We praise you for your son Jesus,
Love in human form,
who showed to us in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion,
your overflowing heart of love.
with all creation, we raise our voices to you as we sing:

All sing: MV 203 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

As we gather at this table,
we remember that on the night before he died,
Jesus gathered with those closest to him.
He took a loaf of bread,
thanked you as we have thanked you,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Whenever you feast together, remember me.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends, saying:
“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood.
Whenever you drink together, remember me.”
Remembering your boundless love
shown to us in Jesus Christ,
we offer you our praise,
as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

All sing: MV 204 “Memorial Acclamation”

Holy Spirit, unite us at this feast and may it strengthen us
to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Christ in creation.

Words of Institution

Christ’s body broken and healed for you.
The cup of rich blessing poured out for you.

Welcome to the Table

Come, for all things are now ready.

**Come to the table with all your kin
and share with all in need—**

the gift of healing for those of us in pain,
the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged,
the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt,
and the gift of hope for those of us in tears.

**May we who share these gifts,
share Christ with one another and with all our kin.**

Prayer after Communion

Holy God of all creation, in our actions in this place
may we draw closer to knowing your love in our lives.

By who we are and whose we are
may we reflect that love into this your world.

Amen.

All sing: MV 205 "Great Amen"