



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

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Sunday, January 8, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: See How God Sees

✠ indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz: Auld Lang Syne – Scottish Traditional*

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING ONE ANOTHER

(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: *I Am the Light of the World (v.1)*

VU#87

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*

When we are reluctant to dip our toes into faith's river,

Jesus comes, to teach us how to swim.

When we are hesitant to cup our hands to drink from the fountain of grace,

Jesus comes, to reach in and splash our faces with God's joy.

When we are unwilling to be the pipeline of hope,

Jesus comes, to turn on the faucets God has installed in our hearts.

Come, let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER: *(Leader)*

BLESSING OF THE NEW CROSS AND
DECOMMISSIONING THE ORIGINAL CROSS

Decommissioning the Original Cross - Slide Show (Unison)

We give great thanks for this symbol that has been a part of St. Thomas since before the building was constructed around it. We acknowledge that this cross is symbolically dripping with the prayers and memories of the past 28 years, and may we continue to be grateful for and honour all that this cross has given this community. May the importance of this cross never be forgotten. Amen

Blessing the New Cross (Unison)

May this new cross be richly blessed. We ask that those who designed, created, and mounted the cross be blessed and we give them great thanks for this wondrous gift. We pray that this cross brings comfort to all those who enter this sacred space and may it safely hold all the prayers, celebrations, tears, joy, and laughter expressed by all who enter. We ask that God's blessing, Jesus' hope, and the Holy Spirit's courage be a part of this cross now and evermore. Amen

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

†HYMN: *There Was a Child in Galilee*

MV#134

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSV)*

Scripture Reader: Dennis Watson

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – A Song in the Air*

– by Joel Raney

THE MESSAGE: *Repent!*

†HYMN: *A Light Is Gleaming*

VU#82

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *A Warm Welcome*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

✠OFFERTORY: *We Give You But Your Own (Projected)*

VU#542

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER: (*Unison, Projected*)

By your grace, God of the waters, we can open our eyes to see those in need around us. By your abundance in our lives, what we offer can bring hope and healing to more people than we can ever imagine. By your blessing, others are invited to the waters of life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *Bathe Me in Your Light (Projected)*

MV#82

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS (*Unison, Projected*)

Open Hearts to Each Other and the World

COMMUNION:

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.

Come to this table, you are all loved by God. Come and empty your hearts so they may be filled again.

Yes, generous God, may we be filled with gratitude because in your great love you do not abandon us - you make us bearers of your light.

✠HYMN: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (v.1)*

VU#99

All who are frightened in the shadows, all who feel used up and lost, all who are sick and broken, are blessed at this table and made to shine, bringing out the God-colours of this world.

We remember the way that Jesus showed us his love.

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body
for we all partake of the one bread.

In Christ, God breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another.

We are the body of Christ.

At this table we bear witness to our faith.

At this table, God brings wholeness out of brokenness and healing to our world as we break bread together.

✠HYMN: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (v.2)*

VU#99

We gather at this table to remember that Jesus often ate with his friends. At one extraordinary meal, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

Bread for the journey...may it satisfy our spiritual hunger.

Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink; this cup poured out for you is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

The cup of new life.... May it quench our spiritual thirst.

✠HYMN: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (v.4)*

VU#99

What do we remember at this table?

We remember Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection.

We remember our own resurrection moments.

We remember that it is up to us to bring peace and justice to the earth.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Here, at this Table of Grace, the Holy Spirit proclaims life, transforming these simple gifts and the people gathered in this place.

Bless us, O God, and what we do here, that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to one another and to the world.
Amen

(Servers to come forward)

Communion

✠HYMN after Communion: *Halle, Halle, Halle (2x)*

VU#958

✠COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION: *(Responsive, Projected)*

Baptized to begin lives of faith,

we would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst, in our world.

Baptized to serve,

we would speak up for the voiceless; we would bring justice to those who have none.

Baptized to speak,

we would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.

Baptized to do what is right,

we would not play favourites, but treat each as your Beloved.

✠HYMN: *Will You Come and See the Light*

VU#96

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, Erin MacLean-Berko, Kristin Raugust, John Robertson, Diane & John Latter, Heather Robertson, Cathy Rivard, Dennis Watson, Mark Powell, Stacy Schrottner, Sherrill Knight.