



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

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Sunday, March 19, 2017, 10:00am
A Service of Reconciliation
**(Reconciliation – Restoring good will in relations that have
been disrupted)**

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

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

GREETERS: *Penny & Norah Raugust*

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz: As the Deer – by Martin J. Nystrom*

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

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

MV#28

Candle Lighting (5 candles plus Christ Candle)

– *Catherine & Clinton Turner*

As we light these candles, we mark and recognize God's presence in this place, present at all times and in all places, celebrated now through these lights.

We honour Creator's presence on Turtle Island long before European settlers arrived, long before this church or any church existed.

We light the Christ candle as a symbol of healing light shining upon us and within us.

We give thanks to the Creator for this time of worship and for the possibility of new relationships blowing amidst us as the Spirit's Wind of Change.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Children's Choir – My Favourite Things*
– by Rodgers & Hammerstein

CALL TO WORSHIP & PROCESSION OF THE BLANKETS:
Isabella Dressler

Spirit of God, like a soft blanket you sustain and comfort your people and all parts of Creation.

You enfold our lives in your gentle, loving care.

These blankets represent the land of the northern part of Turtle Island, what we know as Canada.

You sustain our lives through the land and all of Creation.

Long before the arrival of Europeans, this land, represented by the blankets, was home to millions of diverse peoples in hundreds of nations.

You sustained their lives through the land and all of Creation.

Their identities were formed by their relationships to the land.

All of their needs were met by the land.

Food, clothing, shelter, culture, spirituality

were provided by the land.

In response to this gracious gift from Creator,

they protected the land,

as Creator protected them, enfolded in the safety of Creator's great blanket.

Enfolded, sustained, and protected, we prepare for worship and reflection. Amen.

HYMN: *Called by Earth and Sky*

MV#135

OPENING PRAYER: *Hilda MacDonald*

Scripture Readings – *Hebrews 12:14 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

Scripture Reader: *Vanessa Wu-Wright*

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,
Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – Sisi Ni Moja*
– by Jacob Narverud

BLANKET EXERCISE: Don Dale

HYMN: *For the Healing of the Nations* **VU#678**

1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples and 1988 Response

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS – with our Offerings & Prayers:
Claire Messer, Liora Xu, Andrew Han

†OFFERTORY: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
VU#541

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: (**Unison**)
Loving God, through these gifts, may all hear the call to compassion. May all embrace the way of sharing, may all feel solidarity with one another. May all be blessed with mercy and justice. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *Love Us into Fullness* **MV#81**

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

†COMMISSIONING & BLESSING: (**Responsive**)
We are trying to understand what Reconciliation and Right Relations mean. Have relationships changed? How have we acted? What healing remains to be done?

We have taken some steps toward understanding. Much remains to be done.

We are not there yet; not all is forgiven or made whole between us.
Great Spirit, unite us as we continue to walk towards justice, reconciliation, being family, and living with respect in creation.

HYMN: *Take Up His Song (peace, hope)*

MV#213

POSTLUDE

Coffee Helpers – Members of the St. Thomas Children’s Choir & Sunday School

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, The Children’s Choir, Don Dale, Anita Eaglebear, Greg Hyatt, Jay Livesay, Karen Kotkas, Andrea Sonpal, Cathy Rivard, Norah & Penny Raugust, Catherine & Clinton Turner, Isabella Dresser, Hilda MacDonald, Vanessa Wu-Wright, Claire Messer, Liora Xu, Andrew Han, Myrna Malanik, Kristin Raugust, Brittney Whittaker.