



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

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Sunday, May 14, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: Stand Firm

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

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz – Good Mother – by Jann Arden*

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: *This Is the Day*

MV#122

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE

Candle Lighter: Vanessa Wu-Wright

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

Come to this place, knowing that God is here.

We come to worship in a spirit of hope.

Come to this place, a safe place, where God will keep us safe.

We come to worship in a spirit of peace.

Come to this place to be renewed in faith, knowing the risks for us when we proclaim the gospel.

We come to worship in a spirit of faith.

Come, let us worship God.

Seasons of the Spirit Fusion Resource 2016-2017, Used with Permission

OPENING PRAYER: (*Unison*)

Creator, you have shaped a place for us made of love and held in grace.

It is filled with the whispers of the ancients who followed you and sculpted our faith.

Breathe into this place again, that we may know your way, your truth, and your life. Amen.

Seasons of the Spirit Fusion Resource 2016-2017, Used with Permission

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP: *Please see insert*

✠HYMN: *Would You Bless Our Homes and Families*

VU#556

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

SCRIPTURE: *Based on Acts 7:55-60*

Scripture Reader: Carrie-Faye Wong

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Orchestra – Canadian Folk Trilogy*

– arr. by Vince Gassi

THE MESSAGE: *You Are Only as Strong as Your Foundation*

✠HYMN: *When We Are Tested*

MV#65

MINUTE FOR ST. THOMAS: *The Worship Committee*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Orchestra – This Little Light of Mine*

– arr. by Dick Worton

†OFFERTORY: *Grateful (chorus only)*

MV#182

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: (*Unison*)

We bring ourselves, Creator God: living stones that you can build into vessels of healing and transformation for our world. Use us, and the gifts we bring, to make a difference in the lives of others. We pray in Christ's name. Amen

Seasons of the Spirit Fusion Resource 2016-2017, Used with Permission

CALL TO PRAYER: *Now the Green Blade Rises (v1)*

VU#186

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS

†COMMISSIONING and BENEDECTION: (*Responsive*)

A stone

A stone

To hurt?

To shelter

To throw?

To gather

To wound?

To sculpt

A weapon?

A blessing

A stone

A stone

To control?

To protect

To divide?

To gather

A barrier?

A bridge

A weapon?

A foundation

A stone?

A stone

To build a dividing wall?

To lay a roadway

To shape an obstruction?

To smooth a connection

A weapon?

A faith

A stone

A stone

Seasons of the Spirit Fusion Resource 2016-2017, Used with Permission

HYMN: *Will Your Anchor Hold*

VU#675

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Orchestra, Carrie-Faye Wong, Greg Hyatt, Don Mills, Vanessa Wu-Wright, Kristin Raugust, Matt Taylor-Kerr, Myrna Malanik, Diane Paley, Drina & Bob Nixon, The Worship Committee.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Today, we welcome three people who have chosen St. Thomas as their congregation of choice through transfer of their membership. We gather to welcome them as members of this church, and to attest to the power of the Holy Spirit, celebrating you who make your place in this community of the people of God.

Presentation:

The church is a community of people with varied gifts,
united by the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's presence,
to discern God's truth,
and to follow the way of Jesus.

By our baptism we are made members of Christ's church.
We exercise this membership
in the denomination to which we belong,
which for us is The United Church of Canada,
and within the context of a local community of faith.

On behalf of the St. Thomas United Church congregation,
I present the following persons
whom we welcome into the membership
of this community of faith:

Linda Nichols-Mandrusiak
Shunaha Kim
Kurt Robertson

Commitment of New Members:

Will you join with us, your St. Thomas United Church family,
as together we celebrate God's presence,
live with respect in creation,
love and serve others,
seek justice and resist evil?

I will, with God's help.

Congregational Commitment:

Dear friends in Christ,

let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

As your sisters and brothers in Christ,

we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.

We pledge to you our love and our support.

With God's help, we will together live out

the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

Welcome:

In the name of Jesus Christ,

we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities
of membership in this congregation.

We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Blessing and Sending Forth:

May you feel united with us at St. Thomas as the Body of Christ in
the world. Go in peace. Amen.