



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

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Sunday, June 25, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: Welcome Justin and the 150th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada 1867-2017

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

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Barb Tetzlaff*

HYMN: *O Canada*

VU#524

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: *River Running in You and Me (Ian Macdonald/Gordon Light) (vv 1,7)*

MV#163

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

We gather today for worship marking the 150th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada.

As we gather, we recognize that the full history of Canada is, of course, much older than 150 years.

The history of Canada, as with all our histories, has both joy and sorrow, both triumph and tragedy.

We come to celebrate lament and dream.... knowing that we are in the presence of God, our Creator.

Come, let us worship the Creator in whom we, and all of creation, are one.

OPENING PRAYER: *(Leader)*

✠HYMN: *Like a Rock (Linnea Good/Keri Wehlander)*

MV#92

BLESSING OF WEDDING RINGS

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

SCRIPTURE: *Luke 1:46-55*

Affirmation:

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

THE MESSAGE: *“What If?”*

✠HYMN: *Deep in Our Hearts (Ron Klusmeier)*

MV#154

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Minute for St. Thomas – Ministry & Personnel*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS
with our Offerings & Prayers.

✠OFFERTORY: *What Can I Do?*
(Paul Rumbolt/Michele McCarthy)

MV#191

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER: ***(Unison)***

**Loving God, we recognize and give thanks for the abundance that comes from this country we love so much.
May your love prompt us to be loving.**

**May your call prompt us to leave our comfort zone and take risks for the gospel.
Receive these gifts; may they be a source of joy and plenty for any and all people. Amen**

CALL TO PRAYER: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered (Bruce Harding)* **MV#14**

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS

†COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION: *(Leaders)*
A Blessing for Travellers

HYMN: *Draw the Circle Wide (Gordon Light)* **MV#145**

POSTLUDE – *Barb Tetzlaff*

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

Blessing of Wedding Rings

Introduction

We are gathered here today to celebrate one of life's greatest moments, the joining of two hearts and to give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes to this couple as they journey towards marriage.

A wedding is such a wonderful occasion filled with hopes, dreams and excitement. We are here today to celebrate the love that two people have for each other, and to recognize, witness and bless their rings as they continue their decision to journey forward in their lives as marriage partners.

I present Jacqueline Shaw and Jay Livesay.

Intention

Today we have come together to support the joining of two lives. For them, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary has happened. They met each other, fell in love and are finalizing it with their wedding. A good marriage must be created. It's never being too old to hold hands. It's remembering to say I love you every day. It's not just marrying the right person, its being the right partner.

It is your love that has brought us together here today. May it grow deeper and sweeter with each passing year. Let your love be an inspiration to others to reach for what is good within us all. May your love be so abundant that you have plenty to share with the rest of us as well. May your love continue to create a safe haven for you both on the journey that lies ahead of you. Lead with your hearts and take the time to do the simple things that will nurture your love.

So, as you move toward your wedding day, we are honoured to be able to bless your wedding rings. When the time comes and you

place these rings on each others' fingers, may you remember this blessing from your church family.

Blessing of the rings

Loving God, bless these wedding rings, we pray. May these rings remind Jacqueline and Jay of the promises to journey with one another; loving, helping, and encouraging each other along the way. May these rings share laughter and tears and let these rings continue to be to Jacqueline and Jay a symbol of the value, the purity, and the constancy of true wedded love, and as a sign and seal of the vows they will soon make. Above all, may these wedding rings remind you always that you are surrounded by enduring love. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessing of the couple

Jacqueline and Jay,

May your life together be blessed with prosperity and good health.

May you always share open and honest communication between each other.

May you respect each other's individual talents and gifts and give full support to each other's professional and personal pursuits.

May you continue to cherish the home and family you have created together.

May all the years to come be filled with moments to celebrate and renew your love.

May your love be a life-long source of excitement, contentment, affection, respect, and devotion for one another.

Amen.