

Praying for Our World

Dear God:

I come before you today filled with fear, concern, doubts and sadness. I fear that heavy rains may lead to another devastating flood. I have concern for people suffering through a terrible plague with all of its implications for safety, security, and loss of life. The severity of these events and their consequences is testing my faith and my own weakness in the face of that test fills me with sadness and a sense of fathomless loss.

The crux of the problem is the merging of many negative forces on our lives at this time in history.

My faith, while still strong, has taken a direct hit in the face of these calamities. Your people need relief from this pandemic world-wide and (more locally) from the incessant rain, too. I implore you to give us all respite from these problems and show that your everlasting love for your people is still strong. Deliver us from this disastrous disease and dry up the heavens to provide succor to your faithful. So many of us have suffered incalculable pain and loss. Restore our faith and keep us strong in your love.

We ask in Jesus holy name,
Amen

by John Burgess



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

Online Worship Service Sunday, July 26, 2020

Theme: Great Faith Leads to Great Prosperity

VU = Voices United **MV** = More Voices

*You will find the link to our online service
via our website: <https://stthomasunited.ca/>*

Prelude: Kari Orosz: 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' (VU 288)

Welcome to our Online Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7, Métis Region 3 Land

Candle Lighting & Silence

Introit: *Like a Rock*

MV#92

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: *Holy God, we gather in your presence and ask for your grace. That together with you, we might hear your voice and follow your call. Help us to feel you move in our lives and trust that you are with us. For we are not alone, we live in your world. Amen.*

Hymn: *God of the Bible*

MV#28

Scripture: **Mark 11:23-26 & Jeremiah 29:10-14**

Reader: Diane Paley

The Message: **"Great Faith Leads to Great Prosperity"**

Ministry of Music: *The Strummers & Youth Choir - 'We Are the World' by Lionel Richie & Michael Jackson*

Invitation to Open Hands

Offertory Prayer: *Holy God, we give thanks for the opportunity to be a part of your work in this your world. Take what we offer as a sign and symbol of your call in our lives that we might continue to be your hands and your feet with lives outstretched to those in need. Amen.*

Hymn: *Gather Us In*

MV#12

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: *True Faith Needs No Defence*

MV#139

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude: Kari Orosz: *'Have a Little Faith In Me' by John Hiatt*

UPDATES

Youth Group: To do our part in practicing social (physical) distancing, youth group is meeting virtually through zoom, WhatsApp, and more! If you would like updates about what we are doing or if any youth (grade 7-10) would like to join us virtually, please email the youth leaders at youth@stthomasunited.ca.

Junior Youth Group is meeting virtually through ZOOM **Fridays at 6:30 pm**. If you know of a child in grades 4-6 who would like to join us virtually, please email Junior-youth@stthomasunited.ca and we will include them in the distribution list.



St Thomas is on YouTube! It's easy to subscribe to our bi-weekly videos and worship services and watch them at your leisure. Just go to:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvtBXFGvS5ATsSMot2xguQ)

[UCvtBXFGvS5ATsSMot2xguQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvtBXFGvS5ATsSMot2xguQ) and click on "subscribe"

on the top right corner of the page. We currently have 49 subscribers so let's share and see if we can get to 100 subscribers this summer!

BEYOND ST THOMAS

Camp Kasota West Online Programming: Camp Kasota West is a United Church summer camp on Sylvan Lake. Typically it is a sleep away camp, but due to the current situation they are not proceeding with on-site programming this summer. Instead the Camp Kasota West team are working to offer camp in an online setting. Campers who have completed grades 1 - 9 can register for a variety of online sessions that will be run over Zoom, from engaging games, to physical activities, and even crafts. These sessions are free of cost, and you can find more information and register online at www.campkasotawest.com/online-programming/. We can't wait to see you all online this summer in a fun and engaging new camp environment!

BEYOND ST THOMAS

Veteran's Food Bank: As the need continues, please consider donating via mail to this worthy cause. You can mail your donation to: Veterans Assoc. Food Bank #10, 820 – 28 St NE Calgary, AB T2A 7X1. Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. Be sure to include your mailing address with your cheque.

Rendez-vous 2020 will be going ahead August 11-14 and this year it's all digital! Online registration is now open and is free of charge, but it helps the coordinators keep track of participants and provide secure access to online activities and resources. Through real-time online events, recordings, and DIY workshop kits, Rendez-vous will celebrate bold faith, brave space, and brazen grace. Here's what you can expect:

- Inspiring speakers, powerful worship, and singing your favorite songs
- Fun, engaging, and interactive workshops and activities
- New friends from across the country and around the world
- Awesome t-shirts

Check out their website <https://www.uccrendezvous.ca/> for more information and registration! Please note: although they say registration is open, it appears that their registration button isn't linked to a page where you can actually register. Keep an eye on their website, it should be updated soon! We will also keep you posted and let you know when the registration button works.

Learn Healing Touch for the health and well-being of yourself, your loved ones and others in your life. Learn natural techniques to reduce pain, anxiety, stress and fatigue. Healing Touch Level One Course will be offered on **Saturday Aug 15 & Sunday, Aug 16**. Tuition Fee: \$497 (Talk to Betty Minifie if you need financial assistance). To register contact: Betty Minifie, RN, BScN, HTCP/I via email: therapeuticbalancing@gmail.com or phone: 403-474-7399.



Deadline for registration is: Monday, Aug 10. For more information about the program visit healingtouchprogram.com.

BEYOND ST THOMAS

You are invited to the ***SA Foundation's Advocacy Centre and Global Wonders Boutique- Be A Champion for Freedom!*** During the recent lockdown, the issue of sex trafficking has not gone away and the SAFoundation is working hard to address this injustice. The foundation provides long term housing, recovery and training for women and their children escaping human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Did you know that we have an Advocacy Centre right here in Calgary? (4031 Brentwood Road NW). Come and experience the audio/visual tour at our Advocacy Centre and learn more about the issue of sex trafficking and how the SAFoundation is ensuring 'Her' freedom.

Alongside our Advocacy Centre, we have the ***Global Wonders Products of Hope Boutique*** where you can purchase items that have been made by the women in our recovery and job skills programs with 100% of proceeds going back to supporting her freedom and future. Our products make an excellent & unique teacher gift! SAFoundation's Advocacy Centre and Global Wonders Boutique are open by appointment only for the summer: call or text us to set up your personal & private tour or shopping experience and find out how you can become a Champion for Freedom! 403-875-5111, melonie@safoundation.com. **www.beaglobalwonder.com**.

Calgary Alliance for the Common Good: As a part of the Mental Health strategy the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is offering the following webinar: ***Building Resiliency for Health & Well-Being Webinar, Thursday, July 9 at 7 pm*** We are only beginning to understand the significant connections between our mental and physical health. Join us for a webinar on Resiliency Factors for Health and Well-Being to learn about the "mix of six," resiliency factors that contribute to health and well-being. These resiliency factors: love and support, stress management, sleep, physical activity, diet and healthy environment, can be supported by mind-body practices that reduce stress, including the practice of mindfulness. To join into the webinars go to the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good website <https://www.calgarycommongood.org/events>

BEYOND ST THOMAS

Why Basic Income (BI)? We have many support programs in Canada that are not working to lift people out of poverty but rather creating generational poverty. Our welfare system which was designed to ensure Canadians could pay rent and buy food, does not allow them to improve their lives but instead, penalizes them. Their welfare cheques are clawed back dollar for dollar if they earn additional money to support themselves. When they start to work they lose any financial support they had such as subsidized housing and child care. The current system does not encourage people to want to do better for themselves, which is what BI would do. BI is designed to catch people as soon as their income drops, helping them over the hurdle of finding new work, supporting them while they retrain or allowing them time to start their own business and return to being self supporting. It has been proven, by the many trial projects, (two in Canada) to bring people back into the workforce and into better jobs. It takes away the stress of poverty and income uncertainty, creating healthier families and reducing mental and physical health care costs. It has been shown to reduce crime, as many crimes are a result of desperation. BI would save money in court and detention costs and save people from a life destroyed by crime. If federal and provincial governments worked together to implement BI to replace welfare programs and complement our current social service programs, the cost savings could make the implementation affordable for Canada. If there is anything that this pandemic has taught us, it is that we can all find ourselves, at some time in our lives, needing a helping hand to survive. BI would do that, allowing all Canadians to live with dignity, and isn't that the Socially Just way we want Canada to be? This is an opportunity for us to come out of the pandemic with a program that will create a better life for many Canadians. We ask you to write to your MP to request that the government implement BI. The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good website offers a sample letter, contact info for your MP, and a copy of the letter that the Alliance sent to Prime Minister Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Freeland and Minister of Finance Bill Morneau. Go to the CACG website to find out more: https://www.calgarycommongood.org/basic_income. If you would like to discuss Basic Income more please contact Rev. Tracy, Brian Dodd or Karen Kavanagh as we are the all on the CACG Basic Income Team.

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

Sunday, July 26	Online Worship only
Monday, July 27	no events
Tuesday, July 28	no events
Wednesday, July 29	no events
Thursday, July 30	no events
Friday, July 31	
1:30 pm	Al Madinah Islamic Assembly
7:00 pm	Virtual Youth Group
Saturday, August 1	no events

Ministers: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Rev. Justin McNeill

Office Administrator: Halyna Kinasevych

Music Team: Pam Bazinet, Barb Robertson,
Dick Worton, Erin MacLean-Berko

Accompanists: Kari Orosz, Kloria Wen

Youth Leaders: Heather Robertson,
Eden Middleton, Caitlin Hornbeck

Sunday School Coordinator: Erin MacLean-Berko

Office Email: office@stthomasunited.ca

We encourage you to keep in touch via our **Facebook** :

<https://www.facebook.com/st.thomasunitedchurch/>

and **Twitter:** https://twitter.com/st_thomas_yc

Sign Up for St. Thomas **email announcements and e-Letters** by contacting the office.

Any announcements, advertisements, or requests for non-church related products, services, or donations to organizations contained in this bulletin/newsletter should not be interpreted as recommendations, endorsements, or permissions by St. Thomas United Church.



Please note that the office will be closed for summer break **starting July 1 until August 10**. Emails and phone messages will only be checked occasionally. For urgent matters that arise during this time, please call, email or text Tracy (403-870-3930) or Justin (587-736-002).

Upcoming Service Themes:

August 2:	God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle
August 9:	Follow Your Heart for Love Always Wins
August 16:	Cleanliness is Next to Godliness
August 23:	Money is the Root of ALL Evil

Each Sunday we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 7 land, not out of guilt or shame, but in recognition of the land on which we gather. We give thanks for the traditional territories and oral practices that have lived on this land for thousands of years through the Indigenous Nations of the Siksika, Kanai, Piikani, Stoney-Nakota and Tsuut'ina and all people who make their homes in this, our Treaty 7 region of Alberta, and the Region 3



Through our gifts we commit ourselves to live out the mission and ministry of the church. Please give generously to the **Mission and Service Fund** to make this possible.



St. Thomas is an **Affirming Ministry** within The United Church of Canada. LGBTQ2 people are whole people and full members in this community of faith.



The United Church of Canada St. Thomas is proud to be part of the United Church of Canada which ministers to close to 3 million people in 3,500 congregations across the country. For more info about the United Church visit www.united-church.ca



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

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