

# 2020 Ouvry Cemetery Service

*158<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service - Online – June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

**Prelude:** “Silver Threads Among Gold” – Christie Coatsworth

**Welcome & Announcements:** Glenn Stephens – Chair of the Ouvry Board

Good afternoon! Welcome to The Ouvry Cemetery Service as we gather to honour those interned here. We have shared love, life and memories with those who have gone before us. We hope today’s service offers a time to connect with them as they share in God’s presence.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites, including this service today, – at [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca) and [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca) .

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this afternoon. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides. Thank you to Sandy Campbell for reading, and to Glenn Stephens for helping to make this service a reality.

**Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** On this Ouvry Cemetery Memorial Day, we come with all our hopes and longings.

**People:** **As we gather with the Community Leaders laid to rest here at Ouvry, we gather to worship God.**

**Eric:** We come to find rest for our souls, by worshiping God.

**People:** **We come with all our disappointments and dreams, yet we come to worship God.**

**Eric:** We come to gain strength for our lives.

**People:** **We gather here to worship God.**

**Eric:** Come, let us worship.

**Opening Hymn:** VU 580 “Faith of Our Fathers”

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
whene'er we hear that glorious word:  
faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.
- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real:  
faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.
- 3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,

raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright:  
faith for today, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

- 4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

### **Opening Prayer:**

**God of all our longings, you are the fire that kindles our hearts with hope and possibility. You give us the gifts to lead and protect our community. You fill us with desire for life. You hear our voices whether we are shouting for joy or crying with sorrow. We trust in you and give thanks for your presence in all the stages of our lives. We give thanks for your guidance as you directed the souls here today to build this great community. We thank you in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

### **Story for the Young at Heart: by Glenn Stephens**

#### **Scripture: Psalm 130 – Sandy Campbell**

**From a sea of troubles I call out to you, Lord. Won't you please listen as I beg for mercy? If you kept record of our sins, no one could last long. But you forgive us, and so we will worship you. With all my heart, I am waiting, Lord, for you! I trust your promises. I wait for you more eagerly than a soldier on guard duty waits for the dawn. Israel, trust the Lord! He is always merciful, and he has the power to save you. Israel, the Lord will save you from all of your sins.**

#### **Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 22: 1 & 2 "People Join David" – Sandy Campbell**

**When David left from the town of Gath, he went to Adullam Cave. His brothers and the rest of his family found out where he was, and they followed him there. A lot of other people joined him too. Some were in trouble, others were angry or in debt, and David was soon the leader of four hundred men.**

#### **Message: "Honouring Community Leaders" - Pastor Eric**

Today we come to honour those leaders in our midst here at Ouvry. Although they are no longer with us in this physical world, we do get to reap the rewards of their leadership in our community, and we remember the great lessons they have shared with us. Today we gather to remember them, their lives and their impact on our lives.

In our story this morning, David is being hunted down by King Saul and David escapes to Gath. But he does not go alone. Many men join him, some trying to escape responsibilities and commitment. Yet in time, David works with these men to make a strong and loyal army. These men become great leaders in David's expanding community. Together they are a powerful team.

What stories might you share of your loved one, who used their faith to do extraordinary things? For our parents and grandparents, settling and pioneering on the surrounding lands would have been an act of faith. In the mid 1800's and when Christ Church Ouvry was built in 1863, the land surrounding here would be still treed. It was a wild wilderness that needed to be cleared for agricultural production, to build homes and barns to protect people and the animals. Many of the farms around us today, are the work of our ancestors who are laid here to rest at Ouvry.

Those families around Ouvry considered their faith so important to their daily lives, they built several churches to worship and to be with God. Here at Ouvry they also made space to honour their loved ones after death. Who do you come to honour today? How might you describe the faith of your loved one? Did that person display a confidence in God that others lacked? Has their faith helped you to step out in faith and offer your concerns to God and let God handle them? Can you trust in God to do whatever is needed to be done.

Today we are encouraged by those leaders who came before us to build this community. Today we are the community leaders. Are we leading authentically? Can we stay true to whom God created us to be as leaders? David was destined to be King – he was already picked to be the leader of the Nation of Israel. As a leader, David created a strong and loyal community.

As today's leaders we are asked to create a strong and loyal community. That is much harder in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as rural neighbours do not need to rely on each other as folks did in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As leaders, we need to encourage our community to do things that are best for the wider community.

Glenn shared a story about bees and beekeepers. Glenn thanked our front line providers for stepping out and keeping our community safe. He also encouraged each of us to do our part to eliminate COVID. Healthy bees make a healthy hive. Healthy leaders make a healthy community. A healthy community supports each other, and cares for one another. Because we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

## **Reflection Words: “Don’t Take the Good Times for Granted” by Glenn Stephens**

I met with an old friend last evening  
and I mentioned concerns that I had  
about things that unfurled and the ways of the world  
and how sometimes it makes me feel sad  
I said that life can be so complicated  
and I'm scared I might lose my way  
with a friendly hand pressed on my shoulder  
He smiled and I heard him say Son

Chorus

Don't take the good times for granted  
for things keep on changing each day  
make time to be with the ones that you love  
let nothing stand in your way  
We don't know what waits round the corner  
We never know what lies ahead  
so if just for a moment forget all your troubles  
and count all your blessings instead.  
I often dream of the future  
and of all of the things I might do

Son follow your heart  
because if you never dream  
your dreams they can never come true  
should you choose a road that's less travelled  
just know I'll be there to the end  
your not just a shoulder to lean on  
I thank you for being my friend

Chorus X2

## **Reflection Hymn: VU 288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” with pictures**

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!***

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!***

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!***

### **Offering Prayer:**

**People:** For the gift of those in leadership in our community, may we offer our support and care. For those gifts of talents you have provided to each of us, may we be thankful. Take our ordinary offering and make it extraordinary for our community and for those in need. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

### **Donations for Ouvry Cemetery:**

Payable to "Ouvry Cemetery" and mail to:  
Jim Guerin, 57 Maryknoll Street, Chatham ON N7L 2M7 (519) 352-4222

### **Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer:**

**Eric:** Loving God, we give you thanks for this day as we gather at Ouvry Cemetery to join with those leaders gone before us.

**People:** We give you thanks for every goodness in our lives, for your presence within and around us, for the freedoms we share, and for the opportunities that lie before us. O God, hear our prayer.

**Eric:** We pray for an end to violence in our communities, and between the nations of our beloved Earth.

**People:** We pray for an end to racism in Canada, where people kill one another because of skin colour or because of their religion. We offer prayers for the Muslim Community in London. O God, hear our prayer.

**Eric:** We pray for those suffering in mind, body, or spirit; for those who mourn, and those who are facing death. O God, hear our prayer.

**People:** We thank you and pray for all who have come into this space today to be with their loved ones. O God, hear our prayer.

**Eric:** We offer to you all the prayers of our hearts, as we pray Jesus' prayer...

***Our Father, Who art in heaven,***

*Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Go Now in Peace:**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know he will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now inc peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Postlude: "Tears in Heaven" – Christie Coatsworth**