

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Second Sunday of Easter – April 11th, 2021

Prelude: “Allegretto, symphony no. 7, Beethoven ” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome to St. Luke’s for today’s Service, celebrating the Second Sunday of Easter.

Thank you for your support of all the Easter Weekend Services. Thank you to Andrew and Charing Cross Pastoral Charge for sharing their Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services.

Thank you to the cast that made the SONRise Service come to life. All these services can be found on our webpages - Southbuxton.ca and Talbotstreet.ca .

Jessie Pratt turns 100 this Tuesday May 13th. Please send her a card at 6768 Middle Line, Merlin ON N0P 1W0.

The next Alzheimer Learning Series is this Tuesday April 13th and next Tuesday the 20th, from 10:30 to 11:30 am. These learning sessions will be by Zoom.

This Wednesday I am starting a course on technology for Churches. I am looking at ways to continue to keep our services interesting, yet relevant. Any feedback you may have are most welcomed. I am also interested in what you like and maybe those parts you do not care for. Send me an email at southbuxtonpc@gmail.com or call me. “Together - we are the church”.

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: Christ has risen,

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Eric: We gather to worship the risen Christ...

People: The Conqueror of death - Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Eric: We lift up praise to the risen Christ...

People: The Redeemer of all life - Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Eric: We give thanks to the risen Christ...

People: The Giver of the Holy Spirit - Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Eric: Christ has risen,

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Eric: Come let us worship the Risen Christ!

Opening Hymn: VU 179 “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” – Video – First Verse

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

- 1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth, firstborn of all creation.
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

Opening Prayer:

Resurrected Christ, the one who has overcome death and doors alike, we recognize that any gathering of believers is sacred. Fill this space with your abundant joy and send out any hint of scarcity. God, we know that you meet us exactly where we are. We thank you for coming to us in the way that we need. When our faith is shaky, and we say, “unless I see...” - you come to us with outstretched hands - Hands and sides which bear the marks of your sacrifice for us. You give us unconditional love, unwavering presence, and abundant grace. In return, we give you faith that is not perfect but enmeshed with our humanity. And even though this can never be enough, you take it gladly. We offer you all that we have to give; take our lives, our finances, our time and our talents. May we not keep anything behind closed doors from you. Amen.

Scripture: John 20: 19 - 31 “From Tomb to Room” - by Pat Jackson

There was a nervous pounding on the door. Matthew checked to see who it was through a crack. “Thomas!” he whispered, “Get in here!”

There was one small lamp lit in the middle of the room, and all the windows were covered. They had been uneasy all day. “You just missed him!” exclaimed Peter. “Just missed who?” Thomas asked, confused. “The Lord! Thomas, he was just here with us, and he showed us the marks on his hands and feet. He gave us new instructions . . .”

Thomas interrupted him, “The Rabbi was here? No, no, impossible! Someone has just taken his body. We can’t go around making up stories that he is alive; there is no chance that’s what he would want us to do.” “We’re not making it up, he stood right here with us, and he filled this room with the light of day. He is alive!”

The others began to speak up. “Thomas, it’s true. We’ve seen the Lord!” “His flesh carries the wounds where he was pierced.” “No,” Thomas said in disbelief. “Unless I see the nail marks, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” No longer wanting to be swayed by their talk, Thomas left the house for the night.

A week later, Thomas found himself back in the same room. He had grown less annoyed with the others and their stories of Jesus being alive, but he was still worried about the truth of what really happened to the body of his rabbi. Sitting on the floor with his head between his knees and lost in thought, the shadow that his eyes were fixed upon suddenly disappeared. He hadn’t moved. There was an overwhelming amount of light in the room. Even if all the lamps were lit, they wouldn’t have compared to the brightness flooding the room.

Looking up, Thomas instinctively began to rise from the floor before he registered what he was seeing. “Peace be with you!” He recognized the voice. “Jesus, is that you? How can it be?” “Thomas, put your finger here; behold my hands,” Jesus said, “Reach out touch my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus looked into Thomas' eyes. All traces of doubt were erased with wonder and astonishment. Gently he responded, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

And like that he was gone and the light in the room was extinguished, but Thomas and the other disciples beheld the truth and knew what they must do.

Scripture Hymn: VU 179 "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" – Video – Verses 2, 3 & 4

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and is risen.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

3 We have been crucified with Christ, now we shall live for ever.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

4 Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

Message: "See, Feel and Know!"

As today's Christians, whether we see or don't see, we do believe. The Season of Easter is one of new life and new birth. In Springtime we are filled with the excitement of what God has done and is doing, we share that excitement with others. Today we are sent to proclaim and to continue to be the hands and feet of the Risen Christ in our world today.

In the story of John, the disciples are nervously gathered behind locked doors. John shares that Matthew checks who it is through a crack in the door, and the lantern was kept low and the windows were covered. The disciples are scared and afraid, so they play it safe. When Thomas enters they tell him, "You just missed him"? "Missed who?" "The Master!".

"No Way", Thomas shouts out. "Impossible. Do you think the Master would want us making up lies? Jesus always told the truth!" "We are not lying, he was here". "No," Thomas said in disbelief. "Unless I see the nail marks, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand in his side, I will not believe." In frustration, Thomas storms out of the house.

Thomas comes back a few days later. It might be better to be with friends than to be alone. It seems the disciples give Thomas room to work through his thoughts.

A few days later as Thomas was sitting on the floor lost in thought, there came an overwhelming light that lit up the locked dark room. It was like someone turned the lamp up and added a hundred more. “Peace be with you”, Jesus said. Instantly Thomas recognized Jesus voice. “How can this be?” “Thomas, put your finger here and touch the pierce in my side”. Thomas didn’t have to touch anything. He believed! Jesus had called his name and he knew Jesus’ voice.

Similar to last Sunday when Jesus called Mary’s name and she believed, today it is Thomas. When you have heard someone call your name for several years, you know who they are, when they are calling you. If Thomas had any doubt, Jesus looked Thomas in his eyes – all traces of doubt vanished. Our eyes are the window to our souls.

Jesus then shares with Thomas words that are for us today, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” We believe - because Jesus may have called our name, or we may have felt his presence among us, or maybe Jesus looked into our eyes. However we feel that we have met Jesus – we believe.

The new instructions that Jesus left with the disciples was, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” That includes you and I. Jesus forgave Thomas. Jesus forgave Peter who denied him three times on the night of his arrest. Jesus forgives you and I. As Jesus has forgiven us, we too are to forgive ourselves, and then forgive others as we do the work of Christ in our world today.

In those times that obstacles arose for the disciples, Christ continued to show up and provide for the disciples’ work of sharing the gospel. Christ continues to show up for us today as we too sometimes run into obstacles while being the hands and feet of Jesus in today’s world.

This week will be the Spring Break for our schools, and in Ontario we have been declared an “Emergency Brake” in our COVID situation. What might COVID look like by the end of this week? Hopefully families will stay put and not travel as they are being asked to do. Hopefully we will stay safe. Together we can control this pandemic.

We as the church are asked to help out when things in the community get tough. We may be asked to do things we are familiar with - or we may be asked to do and help with something we’ve never done before. How might we answer the call?

However we answer the call – Jesus promises to be with us, helping us when needed. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 560 “O Master, Let Me Walk...”

- 1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We see Jesus today. We feel Jesus' side and hands today. We come offering our gifts! Let us give in love!

Offertory: VU 541 “Praise God From Whom...”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer:

Ever-present God, we desire to walk in the warmth of your sacred light. We testify all that we have seen, heard, and felt. We declare your matchless grace to the rest of creation, so that all may hear. Thank you for meeting us where we are. Grant us your peace in the face of uncertainty. Help us to live as those who have encountered the resurrected Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Welcome Light, Love, and Hope of God.

People: Surround us with the warmth of the Holy Spirit.

Eric: Demonstrate your never-ending grace to us.

People: Inspire within us this same grace to offer to others.

Eric: Enhance our senses to recognize your presence in the world,

People: so that we may see, hear, and touch the ways you participate in our everyday lives.

Eric: Awaken our souls to the injustices that are prevalent within our cultures. *(Moment of silence)*

People: Grant us eyes to see those who are overlooked. *(Moment of silence)*

Eric: Grant us ears to hear cries for help. *(Moment of silence)*

People: Grant us hands to extend to those in need. *(Moment of silence)*

Eric: May we advocate for the voiceless, the parentless, the homeless, and the disadvantaged. *(Moment of silence)*

People: Infuse empathy in us so that we may offer dignity to those we help. *(Moment of silence)*

Eric: Grant us the wisdom to empower them in the midst of their plights. *(Moment of silence)*

People: May we act out of justice, may we love mercy, may we walk humbly with you, O God.

Eric: May we do so, sharing together the Lord's 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.

Blessing:

Eric: As we go, may our lives reveal the Resurrection to the world, and may we be a living testimony of the love of Christ, now and forever more.

Postlude: "Christ The Lord is Risen Today" – Christie Coatsworth

Prayers: - Please include these people in your prayers this week.

We have offered prayer for these people each Sunday morning just before the Zoom Service.

It was suggested to share these names with the total group – as "In the Spirit We Are One".

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| Cancer: | Karen | Becky | Glen |
| | Jasmine | Gary | Baby Carly |
| | Tom | Jerri | Jessie Pratt on |
| | Randy | Ingrid | her 100 th Birthday |
| | George | Willie & Gisele | |
| | Cindy & Connie | Earl | |
| Special: | Susan | COVID deaths | |
| | Zoe | Barry/ Marsha | |