

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

First Sunday after Christmas – December 27th, 2020

Prelude: “Walking in a Winter Wonderland”

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning!

On behalf of the three treasurers’; Joy at St. Andrew’s, George at St. Luke’s and Don at Talbot Street, thank you for all your donations throughout 2020. This has been a different year, yet you kept your donations above average. Thank you so much. This has allowed us to be the church in new ways in 2020. We provided gift cards to the Blenheim, Merlin and Wheatley Food Banks early in the pandemic. Last month, we committed to “The Gift”, which supplied wonderfully to the Blenheim, Merlin and Wheatley Christmas Hampers, and what is left will be used in our local Food Banks. Last week, we donated almost \$4,000 to Kenesserie Camp, and almost the same amount to the Wheatley causes. Thank you for your support of all these wonderful ministries. Because of your donations, families have and will access food from our Local Food Banks, Kenesserie Camp can plan for their programming for the summer of 2021, and many families will enjoy a blessed Christmas - 2020.

If you are making your end of year donation, call your Treasurer to arrange for that donation before year end, so you can be receipted for 2020. Today is the last day for 2020 donations.

As part of Light up Chatham Kent, we have decorated the trees east of St. Andrew’s United Church with lights. The hamlet of South Buxton looks great this year with all the decorations. It is amazing!

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at southbuxton.ca, and talbotstreet.ca

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth and her helpers for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides. Thank you to Nancy and Don Jackson for all the pictures of their Christmas Trees. I will be a virtual tour this year.

Lighting of the Christmas Candles:

Christine: As we light the first candle of Hope, we think of the Hope found in new life. (*Light first purple Candle*)

A Candle is Burning: VU 6

- 1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Clinton: As we light the second candle for peace, we think of the peace of promises kept. (*Light second purple Candle*)

A Candle is Burning:

- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

Landon: As we light the third candle of Joy, we think of the sensation of Joy experienced. (*Light pink Candle*)

A Candle is Burning:

- 3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Shannon: As we light the fourth candle of Love, we think of the Love found in the birth of a Child. (*Light last purple candle*)

A Candle is Burning:

- 4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

Mike: Today we light the centre candle – the candle of light – the candle that we call the Christ Candle, in celebration of God's most precious gift to us: a fragile baby who brings hope, peace, joy, and love into the world and into the hearts and minds of each one of us. (*light the white centre candle*)

A Candle is Burning:

- 5 We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Call To Worship:

Eric: Praise God, angels in heaven; praise God, you creatures of earth!

People: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

Eric: Praise God, rushing waters; praise God, you fish in the sea!

People: Praise God, fire and hail; praise God, you snow and frost!

Eric: Praise God, animals and cattle; praise God, you creeping things and flying birds!

People: Praise God, young men and women; praise God, old and young together!

Eric: Come let us worship in song and praise!

Hymn: “O Holy Night”

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Scripture:

“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” *(Luke 2: 5 – 7)*

Hymn: VU 69: “Away In a Manger”

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Scripture:

“Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea. Some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”” *(Matthew 2: 1 - 2)*

Opening Hymn: B 206 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and Fountain, moor and mountain,

Following yonder star.

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with Royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise

King and God and Sacrifice

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Earth to heaven replies.

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with Royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Scripture:

“The Wise men were told to go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. You will find him there as the scriptures say” *(Matthew 2: 7 - 8)*

Hymn: VU 64 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

Opening Prayer:

We have come to praise you, O God. Your presence among us is a long-awaited gift – for us and all creation. May the reality of this gift be greater than our human expectations as we receive this gift anew today. Amen.

Hymn: VU 48 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!

Scripture Prayer:

“The shepherds where in their fields, when a multitude of angels told them about the Christ Child. “You will know who he is”, they are told, “He will be wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”. (Luke 2: 12)

Hymn: VU 38 “Angels We Have Heard On High”

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous songs prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Scripture:

I bring you Good News, news of great joy for the whole nation. Today there has been born to you in the City of David, a Saviour – the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2: 10 - 11)

Hymn: VU 91 “The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Scripture Prayer:

“After the wise men had gone, Mary and Joseph went home to Nazareth, and then presented Jesus to the temple to be named.” (Luke 2: 22)

Children’s Hymn: B 180 “What Child is This...”

What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping.

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian: fear for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,*

The Babe, the son of Mary.

Scripture & Reflection: “Jesus Goes to the Temple” (story from Luke 2: 22 – 40)

Narrator (Christine): After Mary had observed the ceremonial days of *postpartum* purification required by Mosaic law, she and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. They were fulfilling the Lord’s requirement that “every firstborn *Israelite* male will be dedicated to the Eternal One as holy.” They also offered the sacrifice required by the law of the Lord, “two turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

(Pause.)

Narrator: *While fulfilling these sacred obligations at the temple*, they encountered a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was a just and pious man, anticipating the liberation of Israel from her troubles. He was a man in touch with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Anointed One. The Spirit had led him to the temple that day, and there he saw the child Jesus in the arms of His parents, who were fulfilling their sacred obligations. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and blessed God.

Simeon: (Clinton) Now, Lord *and King*, You can let me, Your humble servant, die in peace. You promised me that I would see with my own eyes what I’m seeing now: Your freedom, Raised up in the presence of all peoples. He is the light who reveals Your message to the other nations, and He is the shining glory of Your *covenant* people, Israel.

Narrator: Jesus’ father and mother were stunned to hear Simeon say these things. Simeon went on to bless them both, and to Mary in particular he gave predictions.

Simeon: Listen, this child will make many in Israel rise and fall. He will be a significant person whom many will oppose. *In the end*, He will lay bare the secret thoughts of many hearts. And a sword will pierce even your own soul, Mary.

Narrator: At that very moment, an elderly woman named Anna stepped forward. Anna was a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel (fan-u-el), of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for seven years *before her husband died* and a widow to her current age of 84 years. She was *deeply devoted to the Lord*, constantly in the temple, fasting and praying. When she approached *Mary, Joseph, and Jesus*, she began speaking out thanks to God, and she continued spreading the word about Jesus to all those who shared her hope for the rescue of Jerusalem.

After fulfilling their sacred duties according to the law of the Lord, Mary and Joseph returned *with Jesus* to their own city of Nazareth in the province of Galilee. There Jesus grew up, maturing in physical strength and increasing in wisdom, and the grace of God rested on Him.

Hymn: BVU 60 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given; word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: As we bask in the Joy of the Christ Child among us - 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:

Generous Creator, giver of every good gift: May our offerings keep the life of those gifts circulating. Accept, we pray, these tokens of our gratitude for all we have received. May they be of use in extending the work of our community to the world beyond our walls. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer:

Eric: God of light and darkness, our world needs your presence. We, your people, long to experience you in all our being, with all our senses.

People: Shine your light in us, O God that we might shine for others.

Eric: Help us not to stay focused on the infant Jesus in the manger or the temple. Help us instead to hear the message of the living Christ, who calls us to discipleship.

People: Shine your light in us, O God that we might shine for others.

Eric: By your Spirit, guide us to take the message of unconditional love and to share it with all the world, especially those who are in need, hurting and disillusioned, who have given up.

People: Shine your light in us, O God that we might shine for others.

Eric: Shine your light in us, O God as we share your special 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.*

Closing Hymn: B 205: "Go Tell It On the Mountain:

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth!

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

Benediction:

Eric: Go into the world with hope, peace, joy and love. We go forth together in the Spirit, now and forever more.

A Candle is Burning:

- 5 We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”

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”.

In hospital: Cleata
Ken
Cancer: Wayne
Karen
Ian
Jasmine
Tom
Randy
David

Special: Ross Family & Sean
Richard
June
Melonie
Susan
Catherine and Sarah and room mates
Jerri
Zoe