

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *Father's Day Sunday – June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

**Prelude:** “Bless the Beasts and Children” – Christie Coatsworth

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to our Father's Day Service.

Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers out there, and to the Father's watching from heaven.

I am open to coming for a visit. I will bring my own lawn chair, and we can meet under the shade tree or on your back deck. I'm not wishing to do indoors visiting yet – just in case. You can call to invite me, or I will call you, to set up a time to visit (but only if you are comfortable with an outside visit, depending on the heat, etc.). My number is 519-689-7555.

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at [southbuxton.ca](http://southbuxton.ca), and [talbotstreet.ca](http://talbotstreet.ca)

We are blessed to have Christie Coatsworth offer the music for today's service. Thank YOU to all those who shared Scripture this morning.

Next Sunday will be our Canada's Day Service with help from the South Raleigh Firefighters.

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

If you wish – grab a candle to use while we share our services. The flame of the Candle reminds us of the light of Christ that collects us as the faith community, “We are One in the Spirit”. Thanks be to God.

### **Call To Worship :**

**Eric:** Into our wilderness, God comes and says,

**People:** “Do not be afraid for I have heard your voice.” Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

**Eric:** When we ask for a sign of love,

**People:** God comes and provides all that we need. Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

**Eric:** Old ways are discarded

**People:** and we are made alive with Christ. Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

**Eric:** Jesus says, “Those who find their life will lose it,

**People:** and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

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

## **Hymn: VU 229 “God of the Sparrow”**

- 1 God of the sparrow God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise
- 6 God of the ages God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

## **Opening Prayer:**

**God of sparrows and elephants, of earth and sky, of the great and the small, you stand with us when we are hurting, when we are frightened, when there is danger. You are with us today, and always, loving us and caring for us, even when we do not see you or hear you or feel you. As we live in your steadfast love, may we live boldly, faithfully, and joyfully. Amen.**

## **Reflection: “Our Fathers – Like Jesus’ Father”**

On this Father’s Day, we are using the image of the image of God, as the Father. We know God as the Creator, and our Father is the creator of us, as half of who we are is created from him, as we grow in our Mother’s womb. As the saying goes, “It takes two to tangle”. Today’s readings share the good things that God the Father shares with each one of us, whether we are good or bad; such as the sun and the rain. These reading also share the gifts of protection, of understandings as we grow up, and gifts of love, patience and fun, in ways that only a Father can provide.

Our Scripture today have been selected from Matthew; various verses and various Chapters being read by various readers. Let us hear what Matthew shares about God the Father.

## **Scripture: Matthew 10: 24 – 39** – Contemporary English Version

**Landon:** Disciples are not better than their teacher, and slaves are not better than their master. It is enough for disciples to be like their teacher and for slaves to be like their master.

**Christine:** Don’t be afraid of anyone! Everything that is hidden will be found out, and every secret will be known. Whatever I say to you in the dark, you must tell in the light. And you must announce from the housetops whatever I have whispered to you. Don’t be afraid of people.

**Doyle’s:** Aren’t two sparrows sold for only a penny? But your Father knows when any one of them falls to the ground. Even the hairs on your head are counted. So don’t be afraid! You are worth much more than many sparrows.

**If you tell others that you belong to me, I will tell my Father in heaven that you are my followers.**

**Colleen: Matthew 5:16 Contemporary English Version (CEV)**

**Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.**

**Becky: Matthew 5:45 Contemporary English Version (CEV)**

**Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong.**

**Christie: Matthew 7:11 Contemporary English Version (CEV)**

**Whether you are bad, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give good things to people who ask.**

Jesus reassures his followers that God the Father values and cares for all people, and God cares for all Creation. This might bring us divine comfort. Jesus also reminds us that God does not just bring the good, the sun and rain. God offers the gifts to everyone – good or bad. God cares for all peoples. Parents care for their children, whether to do good things or bad things. As Christie shared, “Even if you are bad, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. God is even more ready to give good things to people who ask.

Our Fathers have done the best they can, given the circumstances in their world and in our world today. For us, today’s Fathers, we do remember those times when we have goofed up, or were not the model father we would like to have been. Yet if we have raised our children with those values that will serve them well – then we have done a great job!

Of course I invited folks to share their Father Day greetings and stories. As they do, I invite you to reflect on what they share about their fathers. These stories are from the heart. These stories include several stories where this is the first Father’s Day without Dad here on earth. Enjoy!

### **Video of Fathers Day Greetings:**

How much do we look like our Fathers? How much do our kids look like their grandfather? How much do we act like our Fathers? The values of life have been shared and shown in our Fathers works and actions. We are blessed to share in those teachings.

We as the church are to bring about the reign of God to the world today. We will likely only do that, if we have learnt those values from our parents. Bringing the Realm of God to our world is no easy task. Raising children is no easy task. Yet we

are asked to do both! We as followers of Jesus and followers of our parents are called to change the world as we can, and as we are able.

How might we know how to do that? Where might we learn? Who might be our models? Matthew models the strength Jesus receives from God, his Father. Our Fathers have modeled for us how to get out there and get it done! We are not only about listening to our Fathers, but we are also expected to act. To carry the torch, we might say.

It will not always be comfortable, but raising good children is not a very comfortable experience at times. As parents, we did not have a book how to raise our children – it takes a lot of trial and error. Even though we have the Good Book to see how God the Father supports and strengthens Jesus in his work, we will not find step by step instructions. Like our fathers, we need to enter those uncomfortable spaces and love those whom we meet. In doing so, we share God’s love with the rest of the world.

There’s a lot of crazy events going on in the world today, and it might become very easy to throw up our arms and check out. But we don’t! Why? Because our Fathers showed us we can do it – that we have the strength and courage to forge ahead. The Good Book also shares our heavenly Father - God’s call to us Christians to act courageously for the sake of God’s realm. We are not alone. The Holy Spirit will lead us step by step as needed. Our job is to take that first step! We may be scared. We may be totally uncomfortable. It is then we remember how our Father held us and said, “Its okay, I will be right here beside you”. Whether they live across the street, or 3,000 kilometers away, or even in heaven – their thoughts and actions lead us forward. Thanks be to our Fathers. Thanks be to God our Father.

**Hymn: VU 296 “This is God’s Wondrous World”**

1 This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
    all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
    of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;

the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

### **Offering:**

**Eric:** In the wilderness, God provides. In daily living, God provides. In times of plenty, in times of want, God provides. Trusting in God, then, let us give without fear.

### **Offering Music: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

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.

### **Offering Prayer:**

**Great and loving God, who hears the cries of all people, and who proclaims each and every one of us to be of great worth: take these gifts we offer. May our giving help your church to proclaim the gospel of justice and truth throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Hymn: VU 333 "Listen To Your Children Praying" – Christie Coatsworth**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

### **Pastoral Prayer:**

**Eric:** Divine Caregiver, you have counted the hairs on our head and your loving eye is always upon us.

**People:** Show us where we might move out with confidence to speak bravely of your way, even if the consequences seem hard to bear (*pause*).

**Eric:** We pray to you, O God, grant us the courage and compassion to live for you.

**People: Holy Sparrow Creator, you take delight in the smallest creature and your compassion sustains all of Creation.**

**Eric:** Conceive your selfless love within our hearts and birth within us the desire to give voice where the voice has been silenced.

**People: We pray to you, O God, grant us the courage and compassion to live for you.**

**Eric:** Eternal God, we have no reason to fear for we know that, in life or in death, we will always belong to you.

**People: Mindful of your presence, help us to live out of this truth, even when the future seems cloudy and uncertain (pause).**

**Eric:** We pray to you, O God, grant us the courage and compassion to live for you.

**People: Protecting God, we pray for those in our community who are recovering, hurting, or feel all alone.**

**Eric:** We give thanks for all the Fathers in our lives, who like you Father God, have protected us, and comforted us when we were afraid.

**People: We pray for those families who have lost their Fathers, and now they are the one the family counts on for protection.**

**Eric:** All these prayers and the silent prayers of each of our hearts, we offer to you in the words of Jesus;

*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.*

**Benediction:**

**Eric:** Where God leads, we go with confidence. Where God sends, we go with faith, now and forever more.

**Postlude:** “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” – Christie Coatsworth