

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *Valentine's Sunday – February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Prelude:** “Shenendoah” - American Folk Song – by Christie Coatsworth

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to Talbot Street today as we celebrate Valentine's Sunday with Jesus sharing God's blessings with us.

We are meeting in-person at St. Andrew's at 11 am each Sunday for 2022 (as you feel comfortable with the changing COVID situation). Our Sunday morning Zoom meeting will gather at 9:30 am, the service will be at 10 am.

We have rescheduled the Annual Meetings to a later date when we can meet in-person.

St. Luke's is hosting a Lasagna Dinner Take Out this Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available from Marjorie at 676-5641 or Susan at 676-4042. Pick up is from 5 to 6 pm at St. Luke's. You will receive a generous helping of homemade Lasagna, Caesar Salad, garlic bun and Cherry Cheese Cake, all for \$20. Treat your Valentine to another special dinner.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites - [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca) and [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca)

Thank you to our production crew; music by Christie Coatsworth, readings by Annette Skillings and the slides by Tracey Major. You make all the difference. Thank you!

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

#### **Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** Blessed are those who follow God's way.

**People:** They are like a tree planted by streams of water.

**Eric:** It does not fear when heat comes,

**People:** it is not anxious in times of drought.

**Eric:** Like such a tree, we trust in God.

**People:** We know that God always watches over us.

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

**People:** who is the source of life in all seasons.

#### **Opening Prayer:**

**Eric:** Happy are you who speak to God, you shall be heard. Bless us anew, O God.

**People:** Happy are you who are honest with God, you shall be forgiven. Bless us anew, O God.

**Eric:** Happy are you who open up your real self, you shall be loved. Bless us anew, O God.

**People:** Happy are you who long for change, your living shall be renewed. Bless us anew, O God.

**Eric:** Happy are you who put yourself in God's hands; you shall be held. Bless us anew, O God.

**People:** Happy are you who long for a fairer world, you shall be given vision. Bless us anew, O God.

**Eric:** Happy are you who seek God always; you shall be shown the way.

**All:** Bless us anew, O God.

**Opening Hymn: VU 213 “Rejoice, The Lord is King”**

1 Rejoice the Lord is King!

Your risen Lord adore!

Rejoice, give thanks and sing  
and triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!*

2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our sins,  
he took his seat above.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!*

3 God's kingdom cannot fail;  
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!*

4 Rejoice in glorious hope,  
for Christ, the judge, shall come  
to glorify the saints  
for their eternal home.

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;  
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!*

**Scripture: Luke 6: 17 - 26 “A Way of Blessing”- by Shelly Craig**

The word of God was spreading everywhere Jesus went! And everywhere Jesus went the crowds grew and grew. It was now time for Jesus to show more in his actions and tell more in his words about God's abundant blessings.

Jesus went to a level place. And his friends followed. And the people came from near and far from the edges of everywhere to touch him and be healed.

When all the people crowded around, there were still more. And they came closer too...closer to try and touch Jesus...closer to hear what he had to say...closer to be touched by his words and actions.

And this is what Jesus had to say to them all.

*If you feel very small inside, be happy. God's love is yours.*

*If you feel sad inside, be happy. God will help you feel better.*

*If you think you are not very smart, be happy. God has a promise for you.  
If you try very hard to be good, be happy. God will help you feel good inside.  
If you care about other people, be happy. God cares about you.  
If you try hard to work for peace, be happy. God says, "You are my child."  
If people are mean to you because you love God, be happy. You will always be part  
of God's family.*

In this way, the people heard God's word from Jesus that day. It was strange. It seemed that everything was turned upside-down. But that was the wondrous thing about God's way, a way of fairness, a way of equality, a way of blessed balance.

**Message: "Blessings and Woes"**

We are so blessed by God's love. We are nourished in faith like streams of water nourish the trees. Our faith grows, when we join others in the fullness of life, and as we bring about God's reign and justice here on earth. Think back to a time when you have felt blessed. What happened, or what were you involved in, when you felt that blessing? Many times it happens after these times we have worked together to bring God's reign to earth. For myself, the feeling of blessing comes upon me when I have helped others in their faith or to walk those dark times of their lives. It also happens when I can rejoice with folks in their marriage or baptism of their children. In these times we are doing the ministry of God and the feeling comes like a reward to help us continue to do that work.

Today's story in Luke starts with Jesus share what it is like to be blessed by God. Many of the emotions we may feel drag us down. Jesus says be happy because God blesses those who are sad, caring or down on themselves because of what others are telling them. If you think you are not very smart, be happy – God will give you wisdom. If you think its hard to be good, and maybe you are waffling to be bad – Jesus tells us to hold the course – God will help you to be good. God will help you feel good inside. Whenever we feel down – God will lift us up. God will build up our spirits and our resolve. We are not alone. Ever.

Jesus is surrounded by all kinds of people. Some have come to be healed. Some have come to be forgiven. Some have come to hear what Jesus will talk about today. Whatever these folks have come for, they surround Jesus and start asking for whatever they need. At times such as this, Jesus could easily be overwhelmed. Yet Jesus knows this is the ministry God has given him – so Jesus preserves.

With all these people surrounding Jesus he teaches what we know as the Beatitudes. "Blessed are you", Jesus says. Many of the folks who have come to see Jesus that day may have felt anything but blessed. They may have felt sad, or that they failed again so they feel like garbage, or maybe everyone seems to be mean to

them – whatever they were feeling Jesus reminds them that God will bless them with whatever they need. “Blessed are you. You are not alone. God is with you. As God’s blesses you your feeling will change to a blessing. Jesus’ use of the word “you” in each statement suggests that the crowd included individuals living in each of these situations. Jesus says, “You are blessed”

In Luke’s story today, these sayings of Jesus mark the beginning of a lengthy period of instruction for the disciples before Jesus sends them out on their own. Jesus’ message to those who would follow as disciples is one of astounding promise. For many in that crowd, these words may have seemed full of justice and mercy. For others, they may have seemed a harsh judgment. How do we as a modern day disciples understand Jesus’ words? Jesus reminds us that our human understandings are turned upside down when we encounter God with us. Jesus continues with his message of revealing the surprising ways of God. This good news may not always easy to follow.

There are blessings and woes in life, and we as God’s people are not exempt. Trusting in God, we are blessed to bring healing and blessing to others, inviting them to participate in the vision offered in Jesus’ teaching. Jesus reminds us that living towards the realm of God is not a single achievement, but a way of living. But we never go alone.

Most of us in Canada would not view poverty or powerlessness or being ostracized as desirable states of being. It was likely no different in Jesus’ time. What could be good news about poverty, hunger, or being hated? Yet Jesus also shares the woes for those who are rich, full and laughing. We come to understand that rich people experience many of the same emotions as we do; that they are not good enough, that they too have sad days, that they may feel guilty for their riches. We have come to know those who may always be laughing but are just covering up their insecurities. Many young folks who have overdosed in the past 10 years in the Blenheim area are characterized as fun loving, always telling jokes and seem so carefree. Yet they use drugs to quiet their internal pain – they use humour to draw attention away from their real feelings. Yet God is always with them. They are never alone.

The Beatitudes show us how, in Jesus’ mind, we are blessed both for what we are and are not, for what we have and will receive. There are many ways to consider ourselves blessed. But being blessed doesn’t stop at receiving a blessing. The blessing goes beyond the gift. Our hearts are influenced by what we do. Therefore, how blessed or cursed we feel can be a result of not what we receive in life, but

what we give from it. Christ's love and teachings are written on our hearts. In our blessings, we can transform our community and the world. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 286 "If You Trust in God to Guide You"**

- 1 If you will trust in God to guide you,  
and hope in God through all your ways,  
God will give strength, whatever betide you,  
and bear you through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
builds on the rock that will not move.
- 2 God will embrace your pain and weeping,  
your helpless anger and distress.  
If you are in God's care and keeping,  
in sorrow will God love you less?  
For Christ, who took for you a cross,  
will bring you safe through every loss.
- 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;  
so do your own part faithfully,  
and trust God's word; though undeserving,  
you'll find God's promise true to be.  
God never will forsake in need  
the soul that trusts in God indeed.

**Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** We live in the wonderful reality of God's promise. In the name of Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts to be blessed, and shared with those in need.

**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:**

**People:** May these gifts be consolation for all who are in need. May we be more blessed by the giving than we have been blessed in receiving. And may we desire only the power of Christ's resurrecting love. Amen.

**Hymn: VU 400 "Listen To Your Children Praying"**

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 & Lord's Prayer:**

**Eric:** Gracious God, you call us to be like trees planted by streams of water. Planted firm in our faith, we offer you our praises.

**People:** **In our worship, we seek to glorify you – to tell through song and shouts of praise that you are a great and loving God, that you bless us with your presence, and that we are overjoyed to be your people.**

**Eric:** The fires of your passionate spirit burn within us. As we know, you care for all of your people, so we offer to you the concerns that are upon our hearts: for the sick and hurting, for the grieving and anxious, for the oppressed and downtrodden.

**People:** **We ask you to be with your people, all of your people – those we know and those we do not know. Help us all to feel your all-embracing love.**

**Eric:** We trust in your presence, loving God. Help us share justly of our resources and be good and faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us.

**People:** **And help us to share smiles, compassion, concern, forgiveness, and hope with those we meet each day.**

**Eric:** Help us never to forget your presence in our lives. May we sense you with us always, and so be moved to live in your ways.

**People:** **Help us to have faith in you, that like trees planted by the water. Our faith is grounded in the knowledge of your love for us.**

**Eric:** Our faith is also grounded in prayer, as we share 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.*

### **Blessing:**

**Eric:** Go with God's blessing to the world, now and forever more.

### **I Am the Light of the World: VU 87**

'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

**Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Postlude:** “Schindler's List Theme” - John Williams – 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”.

Cancer:	Tom	
	Louise	Louise' Granddaughter - Blake
	Betty	Ingrid
	Alison	Brenda
	Nancy	Jim
	Brian	Jack
	Zoe	Becky
	Barry/ Marsha	Francine
	Adrein	Gary
	Melissa	Karen
	Lloyd	Jim
	Flo	Sherie & Will
	George	Hunter – Doctor
	Jenny	Janet / Tracey
	Shawna	Sarah
	Ethan – Brian Surgery	Donna
	Jeannie	Michelle
	Larry	