

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Second Sunday of Lent – February 28th, 2021

Prelude: “Father and Son” – Cat Stevens – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning!

Today is the Second of Lent.

Today is the final day to order the Broadview (the United Church’s magazine) for the South Buxton Pastoral Charge. Talk to me with any questions or concerns.

This Friday (March 5th) is The World Day of Prayer. They are offering a video this year for the service.

St. Luke’s is hosting a Yellow Perch Fish Fry Take Out on Wednesday March 17th – St. Patrick’s Day. The cost will be \$20 for a complete take out with ½ lb Lake Erie Yellow Perch.

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

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: We who fear the marvels of creation have come to praise the Creator.

People: **Our Creator does not hide from the hardship and suffering of our world.**

Eric: In the midst of suffering, our Creator finds ways to satisfy the hungry and provide deliverance to the oppressed.

People: **From generation to generation, we come to celebrate our Creator, who seeks goodness for all creation.**

Eric: Come let us worship our Creator!

Opening Prayer:

Blessed Creator, from generation to generation, we bless your holy name, and marvel at the magnificent things that you have done. We offer you our gratitude and praise through today’s worship, may it please you. We ask that your Holy Spirit intercede on our behalf, when we struggle to articulate how much you truly mean to us, and how grateful we are for this time together. Amen

Scripture: Genesis 17: 1.7, 15 - 16 “Without an Argument” by George Darnley

Abram first learned about God when he was a young man. All Abram's family and friends followed other religions and worshipped many gods. But Abram wanted to know the one and only God, so he spent time praying and trying to live in a way that respected and cared for God's wonderful creation.

Throughout Abram's long life, God spoke to him over and over again. Abram listened carefully and tried to obey when he felt God was telling him to do something in particular. God guided Abram and his wife, Sarai, to leave their country and travel long distances overland. And that's what they did, over and over again! They left their home and travelled to Canaan, and then to the hill country of Bethel to the west, and then south and into Egypt, and then back to Bethel... over and over again they kept moving from place to place, without any argument!

When Abram and his wife Sarai were very old and living near Hebron in the Jordan Valley, God spoke once more about a new beginning for them. They had so many new beginnings, but they loved God so much that they accepted another one, without any argument!

But the promise God made to them surprised them and puzzled them. God would look after them – bless them – and their children and their children's children, and so on, through all generations. In short, God would care for their family forever and always. But this didn't make much sense to them because Sarai had never had any babies and she felt she was too old now to become a mother.

To make it clear that this was a special new beginning, God asked them to change their names to Abraham and Sarah. So great was their love for God that they went along with God's wishes once again, without any argument!

Abraham and Sarah took on their new names and decided that all they could do was relax and let God guide them day by day. At least this time God had not asked them to move! They felt comforted knowing that whatever young people followed them and became part of their family, they would also experience God's goodness.

Opening Hymn: "Father Abraham Had Many Kids" (2X)

Father Abraham had many kids,
and many kids had Father Abraham,
I am one of them, so are you,
So, Let's all praise the Lord.

Message: "From Generation to Generation"

We hear and read stories of Scripture each week. These stories remind us that in all generations and all times, God promises to be faithful and invites us to respond. In today's story, God makes a promise to Abram and Sarai, and asks that they be faithful to the covenant.

On this Lenten journey in 2021, we are reminded of the covenants God makes to humankind. Last week was the covenant of the rainbow with Noah. Today we hear of another covenant – or promise - between God and Abram. God promises that

Abram and Sarai will have children and land and generations will follow them. At the time of the promise, Abram and Sarai are both in their senior years without children. Being the age they are, and hearing God news that they will be fore parents to many generations – they find this news unbelievable. It would seem to them that God’s promise would be unfulfilled.

It is true that Abram has already had a son Ishmael with Sarai’s slave, Hagar. Today’s promise though is made with Abram and Sarai. Sure enough later, when they are even older, the promise is realized. Abram and Sarai, with new names Abraham and Sarah, have a son whom they called Isaac.

With God anything is possible – even bearing children at an old age. This story reminds us God does keep promises. It also reminds us that God’s sense of timing may not always be the same as our own. Ultimately, we are to trust in God’s promises, even if we cannot understand the promise. What may seem impossible for us - is not impossible for God!

God’s grace reaches across generations, back into our past and forward into our future. We today are part of God’s covenant to Abram. All creation is part of God’s covenant to Abram.

Some change is so gradual that we will never see the full effects in our lifetime. A star exploded thousands of years ago, and we still see its legacy of light. The universe is amazing and scary like that. God speaks to Abram and Sarai about their legacy. What will be our legacy? To our family? To our Community? To our church? To God? God’s creation is good. What legacy will we leave to the world – to Mother Earth? Since we are part of God’s covenant in our Christian faith, our legacies become important in the lives of those who follow us.

As we continue our journey through Lent, let us remember the ongoing covenant that God gave to our faithful ancestors. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: VU 634 “To Abraham and Sarah”

1 To Abraham and Sarah
the call of God was clear,
'Go forth and I will show you
a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey
for I have pledged my word,

that you shall be my people
and I will be your God.'

2 From Abraham and Sarah
arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey
on God's abundant grace;
and in their heart was written
by God this saving word:
'that you shall be my people
and I will be your God.'

3 We of this generation
on whom God's hand is laid,
can journey to the future
secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness
and trusting in this word:
'that you shall be my people
and I will be your God.'

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: As we prepare for the next Generations - 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:

May these gifts build on the legacy that we will leave for future generations. May ours be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and, most importantly, love. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Loving God, hoping against hope, we come to you in prayer,

People: **expecting that you will use our desires to call into existence things that do not yet exist in our world, but are plentiful in yours.**

Eric: We dream of a just peace in places stricken by oppression and violence... *(Silence)*

People: **We dream of loving-kindness among people afflicted by prejudice and hate...** *(Silence)*

Eric: We dream of abundant life in communities suffering from generational trauma... *(Silence)*

People: **We dream of healing mercies in people living with devastating illness...** *(Silence)*

Eric: We dream of your reign here on earth, as it is in heaven... *(Silence)*

People: **And so, with our siblings and cousins in the faith, from generation to generation,**

Eric: we join in the prayer that Jesus taught...

*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: May the Triune love of the Creator, The Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. May the goodness of this blessing live on in the lives and ministries of future generations, now and forever more.

Postlude: "Faith of Our Fathers" – 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:	Karen	Hillie	Jerri
	Jasmine	Ona	Willie & Gisele
	Tom	Sharon -	Earl
	Randy	Stroke	COVID deaths
	George	June	Barry/ Marsha
	Cindy & Connie	Melonie	
Special:	Richard	Susan	
	Cleata	Zoe	