

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Prelude:** “Les Poissons, The Little Mermaid” - Alan Menken – by Christie Coatsworth

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to St. Andrew’s today as we celebrate the fifth Sunday after Epiphany with the story of Jesus filling the disciple’s nets with fish.

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 on 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 - [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca) and [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.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:** Holy, holy, holy is sovereign God; the whole earth is full of God’s glory (pause).

**People:** Holy, holy, holy is sovereign God the whole earth is full of God’s glory (pause).

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

#### **Opening Prayer:**

**People:** O God, we have searched deep and wide for answers to our questions, for solutions to our problems and for relief from those things that threaten to destroy us. And you have brought us here, to the last place the worldly-minded think of turning. Through Jesus Christ, you fill our nets to bursting and renew us in your Holy Spirit. Thanks and praise to you, our God. Amen.

#### **Opening Hymn:** VU 315 “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty”

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth  
and sky and sea;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**Scripture: Luke 5: 1 - 11 “So Many Fish”- by Kristine Gahan**

The sun sparkled on the Sea of Galilee. On this beautiful day, Jesus stood at the edge of the lake. Crowds of people pressed close, waiting to hear him teach about God. But Jewish teachers sat down, and Jesus had no place to sit.

Jesus turned to look at the calm waters. When he turned back to the lakeshore, he noticed two fishing boats that hadn't been there before. The men who had been fishing in the boats were washing their nets nearby.

Jesus walked over to the boats and got into one of them. Here was a place for him to sit and teach. The boat belonged to Simon. “Take me out a bit from the shore, won't you?” Jesus said to Simon. Simon did as Jesus asked. From the seat on the boat, Jesus taught the crowd on the shore.

When Jesus finished, the people left. “Fisher,” Jesus said to Simon, “go out into the deep water. Let your nets down, and you will catch many fish.”

“Sir,” Simon said, “we have been fishing all night, and we did not catch even one fish. Yet, if you say so, we will go to the deep water and try again.”

Simon signaled to the fishers in the other boat. The two boats sailed out to the deep water. Simon threw his net into the water. Before the net of the other boat was tossed in, Simon's net was filled with fish. Simon called to the other boat for help. So many fish filled both boats that they almost sank.

When Simon realized what was happening, he fell to his knees. “Get away from me, Jesus!” he cried. “I am not good enough to be with you.”

James and John, the other fishers, were amazed at all that was happening.

But Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching people, not fish.”

And when the boats were again at the shore, the fishers left everything there and followed Jesus.

**Message: “Called Into Mission”**

God calls us in mission in our community and to the world. As God's children, we are called to invite and help all to feel part of God's love, regardless of their past

or current status. This will not be easy. Actually it is anti - intuitive for us as humans to offer our blessings of God's love with others who we judge as not worthy. After all we know how hard it is for us to follow in a life as faithful Christians. Maybe that is why we need to be reminded that Christianity comes with strings and responsibilities attached. Last week we were reminded that being Christian is not easy. But as we go may we remember we do not go alone.

As we hear today's story from Luke we are reminded that Jesus called his disciples who were fishermen, to follow him and fish for men. In this story, the fishermen casted their nets into the water and almost immediately they are so full of fish that it took all the men and boats to work together to land the fish. If we used that analogy for fishing for men and women, we will need all of us to work together to invite and nurture the overflowing nets of interested Children of God. Even if they do not know it yet, we are to share with them God's love for everyone. That is Jesus' message to the fishermen of his day and to us as Christians today.

Many of us Christians has experienced Holy encounters by first being called by God. God invites us and others who may seem unlikely choices to come and to "fish for men". Our response to the depth of God's love is "Here I am." Miracles and ministry are possible when our trust overrides our skepticism. Yet we are human and skepticism is a normal defense mechanism to those offers we felt is too good to be true. "What is the catch", we ask ourselves. Yet Scriptures and Jesus reminds us it is true. God loves us all – everyone – regardless of your social status.

The industry of catching, preserving, and selling fish was an important source of income in the region around the Sea of Galilee in Jesus' time. The suppliers of the equipment that fishing needed added to the economy of the region. Many villages grew around this fishing industry. We understand that the early days of Jesus' public ministry were spent in the Galilee region. The first recipients of Jesus' teaching about God's reign were the citizens of fishing villages and towns in this region. According to some scholars, no less than eight of Jesus' disciples fished for a living. Jesus had witnessed their lives before calling disciples to a ministry of witness.

Simon Peter senses that the ways of this teacher, Jesus, cannot be contained and reveal something about God at work. Simon Peter realizes he falls short of God's intentions and makes confession to Jesus. Jesus responds with both assurance ("do not be afraid") and commission ("you will be catching people").

Jesus invites Simon Peter and the others to join with him in proclaiming the reign of God and inviting others to join them. The fishers presumably left a viable business and their financial investment in equipment and fishing rights in order to cast the good news of Christ into the deep reaches of society. This invitation is also to us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

One metaphor for the New Testament story of God's reign at work in our midst might be fishing – casting God's saving word of justice, peace, and mercy into the deep social waters of hatred, oppression, and greed in order to draw all people into abundant life. Those called to “cast the nets” may seem unlikely choices. When God transforms those who respond to God's word, the results cannot be contained. In what ways have we been called, individually and as the Church to mission in God's name?

Luke's story portrays the anxiety we face when God challenges us to do God's work. Jesus was a carpenter, not a fisherman. Yet this carpenter told the experienced fishermen to go out and fish in the middle of the day, using night time nets. The fishermen would expect more empty nets – they had already been out all night and caught nothing. Imagine someone not associated with our church came to us and told us what our mission should be as the church? How willing would we be follow their suggestions? This would definitely challenge us to consider what God is calling the church to do. Could God possibly be speaking through that unchurched someone?

The call of the fishers reminds us of our own calling as seekers and finders. Simon, Peter, James, and John were going about doing their daily work, but then Jesus encourages them to go deep and their lives are never the same. Could this happen to you and I? Jesus says, “Yes it can!” We can transform our community and the world. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 562 “Jesus Calls Us”**

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'
- 2 Long ago apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'
- 4 Jesus calls us: by your mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

### **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:** Loving God, doing your will, living out the ministry you put before us, can be scary. It is not just our tithes and offerings that you ask of us – you ask everything. Use these gifts we offer today, in Jesus' Name, we pray. 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:** God who calls, we give you thanks for the courage of prophets of the past and present, who champion your desire for justice and peace, and who speak truth to the rich and powerful, even in the face of danger. For all those who follow, we give you thanks, O God.

**People:** We give you thanks for the courage of people in our local community, whose selfless acts of love continue to inspire our hearts. We give thanks for the unknown and unnamed people who, with disregard for recognition, have acted selflessly in the interest of others. For all those who follow, we give you thanks, O God.

**Eric:** And we thank you for ourselves, for the energy you give us, empowering each and every one of us to be prophets, ministers, and disciples. Inspire us to follow in the footsteps of these faithful ones, that we may heed your call and carry out the work that you would have us do. For all those who follow, we give you thanks, O God.

**People:** We thank you for being on this journey with us and for leading and guiding us along the way.

**Eric:** As together 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:** God provides abundantly – our nets are filled to bursting. Let us be bold and answer God's call, 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:** "Princess Leia's Theme" - Star Wars - 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