

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Second Sunday after Epiphany – January 16th, 2022

Prelude: “Bless the Beasts and the Children” - De Vorzon & Botkin– by Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to St. Andrew’s today as we celebrate the Second Sunday after Epiphany with the story of Jesus at the wedding.

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 are preparing for our Annual Meetings. For Talbot Street folks, email your reports to Tracey at secretary4tsuc@gmail.com . We will be rescheduling the Annual Meetings to a later date when we can meet in-person. Annual reports are available by email or a printed report can be delivered.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites - Southbuxton.ca and 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!

Call to Worship:

Eric: God’s faithfulness is as high as the clouds. God’s love stretches everywhere.

Sung Response: “For the Beauty of the Earth”

People: God’s righteousness is as tall as the biggest mountains. God’s love stretches everywhere.

Sung Response: “For the beauty of the skies”

Eric: God’s justice is as deep as the ocean. God’s love stretches everywhere.

Sung Response: “For the love which from our birth”

People: God’s love is big enough for everyone. God’s love stretches everywhere.

Sung Response: “Over and around us lies”

Eric: Come, let us worship the God whose gifts flow abundantly.

Sung Response: “God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise”.

Opening Prayer:

People: God of many gifts, you offer us so many things: food and drink, everlasting life, gifts for ministry, shelter from danger. Above all: overflowing love! In this time of worship, open us to your Spirit, that we might experience and celebrate the many gifts you give us. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 226 “For the Beauty of the Earth” (Video)

1 For the beauty of the earth,

for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
 God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light,
 God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
 God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

Scripture: John 2: 1 - 11 “Nothing Left to Drink”- by

What a happy week! People dressed in their finest clothing had come to celebrate with the bride and groom. Jesus had been invited, too. The celebration was in the town of Cana near his home in Nazareth. Jesus’ mother, Mary, and several of his friends also attended.

Gifts were given. Laughter and dancing and music tumbled together as the musicians played. Food filled the bowls and plates on the table: breads and meats and delicious spiced cakes. Cups were filled and refilled as more and more people arrived. This was a grand wedding party.

But something happened there in Cana to make it uncommon and quite miraculous. Partway through the party, Jesus’ mother, Mary, walked up to Jesus, tapped him on the shoulder and whispered in his ear, “Jesus, there is a problem. There is plenty of food but no more wine for the guests. The wine is all gone. This will be so embarrassing for the bride and groom. Can you help?”

“Why are you telling me about this?” Jesus asked. “It is not my responsibility. It is not the right time for me to act.”

Nevertheless, Mary walked over to the servants and, nodding in Jesus’ direction; she said, “Do whatever Jesus tells you to do.”

Jesus looked at Mary and then at the servants. Six big, stone water jars were lying empty in an unused corner. The jars were used to hold fresh water for ritual washing. “Fill these jars to the top with water,” Jesus said to the servants.

The servants looked at each other. They scratched their heads. “Why does Jesus want us to do that?” they wondered. “What good will that do? The guests will be looking for wine, not water.”

But the servants remembered what Mary had said and so they dashed to the nearby well and filled every available container. Spilling water as they went, they ran back and poured the water into the jars, and then hurried back to the well for more. Finally, each jar was overflowing with water.

“Now, pour some water into a goblet and take it to the host of the party,” Jesus said.

A bit nervous, one servant carefully filled a goblet and handed it to the host. The host took a long drink then looked at the goblet in disbelief. “This is delicious!” he shouted and called to the

groom. “Everyone else serves the best wine first and keeps the ordinary wine for later. But you have kept the best until now.”

So there was plenty of food and plenty of wine – more than the people could have ever imagined. It was a miracle. It was amazing. They ate and drank and danced and sang. And everyone enjoyed the party.

Jesus’ friends smiled at each other. They knew Jesus had done something wonderful. And they wondered what other amazing things would happen because they had chosen to be with Jesus.

Message: “Abundant Love”

We can depend on God’s abundant love. Whether we are going through a time of no hope, or in the best of times when we are celebrating at a wedding. God gives us extravagant gifts, even miracles. For many of us in North America in the 21st century, we see these gifts and miracles so often that we take them for granted. The power of God’s Holy Spirit works in the midst of our community each and every day. We in faith, offer God’s gifts of love and compassion to all of God’s beloved people.

John shares Jesus’ first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. This miracle story is only found in John’s gospel. This is the story where Jesus’ ministry becomes public at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The disciples are there, as is Jesus’ mother, Mary, who seems to already know and trust in the works of Jesus.

As the story unfolds, it seems like many other wedding stories. It seems to be an normal wedding, where everyone enjoys the food and drink. Then suddenly, “the wine gave out,” which is an embarrassing predicament for the hosts. Mary calls on Jesus to help. Mary in faith trusts in Jesus’ ability to respond to this need. Even if Jesus is not so inclined to do as Mary is asking, Mary continues to act as if Jesus is on board with this task. Even when Jesus asks, “What does this have to do with me”, Mary demonstrates her trust when she tells the servants: “Do whatever he tells you.”

The Catholic tradition holds Mary up as a woman of extreme faith and Mother Mary is one of the most revered Catholic Saints. We see Mary’s faith and trust in this story, as she “knows” what Jesus can and will do.

There is the saying, “If you are going to do something - do it right”. Jesus offers the wedding party somewhere around 150 gallons of the highest quality wine at the end of the feast. Not only does Jesus provide the best wine, but providing the best wine at the end of the feast, is definitely a reversal of expectations. Even the wine steward cannot explain the origin of the wine, although the servants who had drawn the water know.

Expectations are that you serve the best quality wine first and as the party goes on - you serve the lesser quality wine towards the end as people are unlikely to remember. But that is not how Jesus turns water into wine. Jesus gives it all – the best wine and lots of it. This miracle of turning of the water into wine - reveals who Jesus is. This miracle speaks of God’s extravagance and abundance into everyday activities. God’s glory is revealed and the disciples have seen it for themselves and they too believe in Jesus. Jesus turns the wedding party, and its expectations – upside down.

As God’s people, we Christians live with an abundant spirit that stands in contrast to many of the world’s realities. We imagine hope where there seems to be none. We allow ourselves to be guided by faith in God’s unending love. We offer our offerings and gifts to help bring God’s abundant love to our communities. We believe in the Holy Spirit working among us as we minister to others. We are the very example of God’s abundance.

As we follow Jesus as his disciples, Jesus shows that there is more than enough. We are human and our default is to live in the attitude of scarcity rather than abundance. You know what we are talking about - there’s not enough time, resources, food, jobs, affordable housing, etc.) But with Jesus as our model and the Holy Spirit working with us we go to work and like Jesus we give the best in our ministries, not just the leftovers.

Even the questions we ask ourselves when we as the church are looking at local missions can send us in one direction or the other. What do you think of when we ask, “What’s missing in our community”? Versus asking, “What’s possible in our community”? Each question leads you down a different frame of mind. We live in the abundance of God’s love. We live in the power of the Holy Spirit. We trust in our faith and our relationship with God. We reach out in hope with, “What’s possible?” We can work with God and the Holy Spirit to bring abundant ways of thinking to our homes, our churches, our workplaces, our schools, our parks, and our streets. We can use our gifts to transform our community and the world. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 331 “The Church’s One Foundation” – Video

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.
- 2 Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;

one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

- 3 Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, 'How long?'
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We live in the wonderful reality of God's promise, as we reflect on God's abundant love for all of creation. 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, whose gifts are overflowing: as you have poured out love upon your people, so we seek to give back to you even a little of all you have given to us. Take and use the gifts you have entrusted to us, and which we now offer back to you, that we in turn might overflow with love for your world. 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: Holy God, as we enter this New Year, we thank you for your presence with us in all the years of our lives.

People: We have known joy, and also sorrow, success and failure, and through it all, you have been with us— the companion of all our journeys.

Eric: Much of life is fleeting and so we thank you for things that endure: the love of faithful friends, wisdom gained from experience, the reliability of nature, and your steadfast love.

People: We thank you for this New Year which awaits us; take us by the hand, and lead us on.

Eric: For all the possibilities ahead in this New Year make us thankful, O Lord.

People: Give us wisdom, courage, and discernment in the face of so much chaos, despair, and fear.

Eric: Help us to see how, in our circumstances, we can contribute towards peace, faith, and love.

People: And give us the will to translate our desires into actions.

Eric: As we share the prayer Jesus taught us...

*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 has blessed us; with an abundance of life, with an abundance of hope, with an abundance of truth. God's abundant gifts are more than enough for all of creation, now and forever more.

For the Beauty of the Earth:

Refrain: God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: "Love Lifts Us Up Where We Belong" - Nietzsche & Sainte Marie – 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
Jenny
Shawna
Ethan – Brian Surgery
Jeannie
Larry

Hunter – Doctor
Janet / Tracey
Sarah
Donna
Michelle