

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Third Sunday after Epiphany – January 23rd, 2022

Prelude: “Come, Holy Spirit” – William and Gloria Gaither – by Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to Talbot Street today as we celebrate the third Sunday after Epiphany with the story of Jesus returning to his hometown.

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.

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

Call to Worship:

Eric: Spirit is upon, within, and all around us.

People: With hearts open to receive the good news of God’s good ways, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

People: God who calls, inspire us to share in the fulfillment of your good news as stories of your teaching and your ways flow forth from the page and into our lives. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 330 “Jesus Shall Reign”

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To Him shall endless prayer be made
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,

and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

- 4 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Scripture: Luke 4: 14 - 21 “Jesus’ Hometown”- by Madeline Shanks

Have you heard the news? Jesus is back in town. Everyone is talking about what he’s been doing.”

The news of Jesus’ return spread quickly through the town of Nazareth, Jesus’ hometown. The people had heard about all the wonderful things he had been doing in other cities. Today was the Sabbath, and now they hoped to hear and see for themselves what Jesus had been saying and doing. They were sure Jesus would come, for this was the synagogue where he had gone so often as a little boy.

Everyone arrived early. They removed their sandals, covered their heads with their prayer shawls, and quietly sat down. In the middle of the room was a platform where the reader stood. The scrolls of God’s law were kept in a little cupboard behind a curtain at the front of the room. The leader took out a certain Bible scroll and chose several people to read parts of it and then say a few words about that reading.

Soon Jesus entered with his disciples and indicated to the leader of the synagogue that he would like to be a reader. The leader nodded his head and then handed Jesus the scroll that the prophet Isaiah had written. Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where he wanted to read.

“God’s spirit is with me. God has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor, to tell everyone that the prisoners are free, to give sight to the blind, to free people from their suffering, and to tell people about a new time. This is the year God has chosen.”

And then Jesus added, “Today these words have come true.” Jesus rolled up the scroll, returned it to the leader and sat down.

The eyes of the people were fixed on Jesus. They were impressed with Jesus and were amazed at the words he spoke. This was no ordinary rabbi!

Message: “Spirited Voice”

After so many months in a pandemic, we long for good news. Good news for this earth, good news for our hearts, good news for our communities. May we listen for God’s good news as we share about how we should live in following Jesus as a Christian. We are called forth to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world today..

In today’s story, Jesus’ speaks at his home church. There is excitement in the town of Nazareth this morning. Word has gotten back to Nazareth about what Jesus had been doing in other towns. The people of Nazareth know Jesus as Joseph and Mary’s son. They know Jesus as the town carpenter, the one who built their table or fixed their door. Surely since Jesus is back in town, he would attend the Sabbath worship. They were are not disappointed. Jesus enters the synagogue with his disciples.

Mary and Joseph are known to be good Jews. They observed Jewish customs, such as dedicating their week old child, heading to Jerusalem to observe Holy Days, and Luke shares other stories of their faithfulness. Today's story is about Jesus and his faithfulness to his Jewish faith. Jesus honours those traditions. Jesus observes the Sabbath by going to the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. He stands to read scripture and sits to teach, as was the custom of rabbis.

Jesus is handed the scroll of Isaiah. Jesus begins by reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah. We do not know if this choice was his or was a designated reading for that Sabbath. We as modern day Christians are unclear whether there was a set cycle of readings from the prophets in Jesus' day. Either way, the Isaiah text shares the words Jesus wished to share. This was the work Jesus was doing. Let us hear those words again. *“God’s spirit is with me. God has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor, to tell everyone that the prisoners are free, to give sight to the blind, to free people from their suffering, and to tell people about a new time. This is the year God has chosen.”*

And then Jesus added, “Today these words have come true.” Jesus rolled up the scroll, returned it to the leader and sat down.

With these words, according to Luke, Jesus begins his public ministry by announcing, “Today these words have come true”. Over these three weeks of Epiphany we have been sharing each Gospel's suggestions of Jesus beginning his ministry. In Luke, we hear of Jesus' Baptism, last week we hear in John of Jesus providing wine from water for the wedding. Today again in Luke, we hear Jesus' ministry in his hometown of Nazareth. '

What is the gospel of Luke saying about Jesus in this story? Jesus lifts up a passage that begins by referring to the Spirit of God who “anointed me.” The literal meaning of Christ is “anointed one.” Isaiah's reading speaks of the ways of God in terms closely associated with Luke's portrayal of the ministry and teachings of Jesus. Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus brings the good news of God – release, recovery and setting free. All this would be fantastic news to the People of Israel in Jesus' day as they still lived under Roman rule. The scriptures share to us, that God will help us understand and practice God's good ways.

With the Spirit upon him, Jesus teaches about God's good ways and good news to those whose lives have not experienced goodness. Such ways and news cry out to be heard and done today, as we are two years into this pandemic. We as middle class Canadians may not experience the day to day bondage that others in our world

may experience. The COVID pandemic doesn't care. It becomes a threat to all of us regardless of our wisdom, money or social status. Today this scripture tells us this is the day the Spirit empowers us with boldness and trust.

From the sign of the Spirit resting on Jesus at Baptism through this early story of his mission and ministry, we see how the Spirit is working through Jesus and can work in our communities. In our imaginings, hopes, and prayers, may we become the fulfillment of all that is possible. Can we imagine that the Spirit of God is upon us? How can we dream God's dream and then be inspired to act?

Last week we talked about the questions we ask ourselves when we as the church are looking at local missions; we asked, "What's missing in our community"? versus asking, "What's possible in our community"? Each question leads you to a different frame of mind towards different answers. What is possible with the Spirit of God upon us? What might be God's dream for our church community? Do we feel we have the Holy Spirit's power to work towards God's dream? Jesus says, "Yes we do!" We can transform our community and the world. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 626 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 and he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We live in the abundant 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: O Great Dreamer: inspire us in your ways, that in our imaginings, hopes, and prayers, we become the fulfillment of all that is possible in our world, our neighbourhood, this place, and in each of us. 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, we dream of a world where everyone has enough and pray that we might live simply and justly to create an equal distribution of your goodness. *(Moment of reflective silence)*

People: Creator God, we imagine creation in all its beauty, and pray we will walk lightly on this earth living as co-creators and caretakers of your gift. *(Moment of reflective silence)*

Eric: God of love, we envision inclusive circles of dialogue, holy conversation of study and prayer that inspire inquiring minds and discerning hearts in all of us. *(Moment of reflective silence)*

People: God of abundance, we picture a place of hospitality, and pray that we will respond compassionately as we welcome in the brokenness of our world. *(Moment of reflective silence)*

Eric: May you help us to take action 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: Today we have heard God's words, and we trust that the Spirit is upon us. May we know that all is possible with God, 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: "All You Need is Love" – 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	