

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *Shanks Cemetery Sunday – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**Prelude:** “For Everything There is a Season” - Christie Coatsworth

**Greetings:** From Brian Authier – Shanks Cemetery Board Chair.

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to our Service. Today we are combining our Sunday Service with the Shanks Cemetery Remembrance Service.

I am visiting folks outside in the fresh air. You are welcome to call me at 519-689-755 to offer a visit, or I will call you, and if it works for you, we will visit.

Next week will be the Ouvry Cemetery Service, and on July 26 our Annual “Service in the Park” from North Buxton.

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at [southbuxton.ca](http://southbuxton.ca), and [talbotstreet.ca](http://talbotstreet.ca)

We are blessed to have Christie Coatsworth offer the music for today’s service. Thank YOU to brothers; Mike and Brett Authier sharing our Scripture Story this morning.

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

If you wish – grab a candle to use while we share our services. The flame of the Candle reminds us of the light of Christ that collects us as the faith community, “We are One in the Spirit”. Thanks be to God.

### **Call To Worship:**

**Eric:** We bring our hopes and fears, our struggles and our lives as they are, into the presence of the one who leaves the doors and futures open to gracious possibilities. God’s word lights the path before us.

**People:** **May this time of worship empower us to make faithful choices. God’s word lights the paths before us.**

**Eric:** May this time of worship renew and restore our relationships with God and each other. God’s word lights the paths before us.

**People:** **May this time of worship help us to remember the unending abundance of love shared with us from the ones we love. God’s word lights the paths before us.**

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

### **Hymn:** “This Little light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide under a Bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine,  
Hide under a Bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine,  
Hide under a Bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Abundant God, use our senses to open our hearts and minds to the richness of scriptures. Help us to receive the gifts you sow so graciously and freely in our lives, and inspire us to share such bounty generously with our neighbours. Amen.**

### **Scripture: Genesis 25 – Jacob & Esau** – In Story Form – by Brothers; Mike and Brett Authier

**Jacob:** Hello. My name is Jacob, and I have a brother named Esau. I'm not sure where he is at the moment, probably off hunting again. He's a real outdoors person. Oh well, I guess I'll start our story. Esau and I are twins. (Jacob gets impatient.) Where is that brother of mine? There he is – outside with the animals, as usual.

**Esau:** (entering) Well, that's what I enjoy doing, Jacob. We can't all be the same. I know you'd rather stay at home helping around the tents. And you're a great cook. Hey! Remember that time when I'd been away hunting, and I came home so very, very hungry? You had a big pot of red lentil soup cooking, and it smelled soooo good.

**Jacob:** How can I forget, Esau? I could tell you were so hungry that you would do just about anything for that soup.

**Esau:** You're right, and you asked me to make a promise before you'd give me any of your soup to eat.

**Jacob:** I sure did, and it was a pretty big promise I asked for, too.

**Esau:** I had to agree to give you whatever was mine as a firstborn son, and I did. I was so desperate for that soup. It's amazing what you do when you're starving. I still can't believe I did it. But you need to put your differences behind you.

**Jacob:** Yes, and we have.

**Esau:** I was pretty angry at first. But over time, I came to forgive my brother. And we both learned something quite wonderful over time. God has enough love and blessing for everyone. We don't have to try and cheat one another out of it. There's enough love for everyone. All we have to do is share it.

**Jacob:** And you know, the more we share...the more there is!

**Esau:** Got any of that soup left?!

### **Message: "The Love of Family"**

Can you relate to Jacob and Esau? I know I sure can. I come from a family of five boys. I am the fourth in the line up. We were always looking for a way to get our brothers to do our work for us, or scheming to be one up on the other. We spend a lot of time trying to prove we were better, by scrapping, teasing and being boys. So yes I can definitely relate – can you?

With siblings, one minute we can be fighting, and the next we are working together like we are best friends. The scrapping can be part of the fun of having brothers. You also know your brother has your back. Scrapping can be fun, and working together to get jobs done is part of your family responsibilities. Once the job is done, you may get back to picking on one another. We might call that "brotherly love". Sometimes, one of us goes a little too far. Sometimes, one of us hurts the other – and usually it not physically. Maybe we have let them down. Maybe we said something to someone else that should have been kept a secret – it was just between brothers. We have hurt the other, or at least took advantage of them. That's where our story is today between Jacob and Esau.

In today's story Jacob and Esau seem to be so different. Even before they were born, their mother was told insights about her children – her twins. God enters our world and disrupts it – God tells Rebekah that her older child will serve his younger sibling – that their life will be full of upsets and disagreements. As God turns the world upside down, God may be calling us into a new way of being in relation with God, and one another. Like God called Esau and Jacob in the womb.

When we get to the end of today's story, the brothers have forgiven each other – although I sense, it is quite a while later – and have become friends again. That's brotherly love. Time has a way of healing hurts. We may also wish to connect again with our brother, because we understand each other the best. Our brother is likely the one who knows the most about us. Our brother may know things that no one else knows. We are missing that intimacy.

Have you ever had a run in with one of your siblings? Maybe they hurt you in a way you are finding it hard to forgive. Maybe it wasn't actually them, but it's a situation that was created by someone else that has caused the hurt. Maybe Dad loved them more, and it showed – like Isaac and Esau. Maybe they were momma's favourite and it showed – Like Jacob and Rebekah. Whatever the reason, you are no longer on talking terms. If this has happened to you – then you know what it is like. You may want to correct the wrong, but think that you will lose face, or you are not the one that needs to apologize. Jacob later in life, wanted to be right with his brother, and we hear the story where Jacob goes home to meet his brother. Jacob offers gifts as

a peace offering – to soften the blow – so to speak. Esau welcomes his brother back into his life. What might you do to offer your sibling back into your life?

Sometimes we never get around to making that offer. If your sibling passes away, without you coming to terms, the guilt you may carry is enormous. You may even consider them at fault for not reaching out to you. Maybe they have added fuel to the fire with anger, each time you have seen one another. You think you no longer care. Until they are gone. Maybe in the back of your head you thought there will be time – now you know otherwise. It is over. You will just have to live with it.

How might we deal with what's on our minds in this situation? We might remember the story of Jacob and Esau and know that God connects us in relationship. God can turn this so called impossible situation upside down and bring peace and closure into our lives. We are told that God's ways are not our ways. It seems that God continues to challenge us humans to see the world as God sees the world. God does not leave us in the place of sadness, hurtfulness and in anger. No, somehow God gets in and disrupts our lives, bringing us to a place of love for each other, even if we are as far apart as heaven and earth. Talk to God with how you feel. Share with God how you wished you could have made things right. God can make it right!

Yes it is common for us to be sad, hurt and even angry, when we have lost someone. Yet we do notice that God has a way to turn our thoughts and feelings upside down. In grieving, it seems that we only get a bit of despair at a time. It is usually after when we have a time of reflection, that we realize the stages we go through, which allows us to deal with smaller pieces of our grief at one time. We can't handle everything at once. This is one way that God turns our world upside down that helps us to say goodbye to the one we love. In turning our world upside down, we are protected from being totally overwhelmed. In time we will eventually live into a new normal. Life will return to us once again.

In times when we have hurt our brother, as with Esau and Jacob, God's turning of our world upside down, allows us to look differently at the situation. Hopefully, we quickly realize that an apology or "carrot of good will" is extended to our brother – which may in turn, turn their world upside down. Then you have the opportunity to come together and become best friends again.

God's plans for our world are much bigger than we can ever imagine. In turning our world upside down – God gets our attention. We are all living that reality these past 4 months, with the COVID pandemic. We will all be changed as we journey into the future. We will start living a new normal. Let's get onboard with God's plans for our world,

Life with God requires a willingness to disrupt norms and to have our lives disrupted by God. Through today's story we can see the ways that God challenges our assumptions and reorient the way we live in today's world. We are not alone. In their memories, our loved ones go with us, and God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Hymn: VU 226 "For the Beauty of the Earth"**

- 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory 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.
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

### **Offering:**

**Eric:** God provides us with our everyday living and with friends and family. In their actions, we can see God's love. We give in love to help our neighbours. Let us trust in God to provide, and 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:**

**Gracious God, may the gifts we freely offer, be without expectation for anything in return. May you bless the work of these gifts this day and in the days ahead. May you bless the work and care here at Shanks Cemetery. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

### **Hymn: VU 333 "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:**

**Eric:** God of each, God of all: we pray for our families, those with whom we are drawn together by birth or by marriage or by adoption.

**People:** **May they receive care and love from you, and from us, as well.**

**Eric:** We pray for our friends and neighbours, those with whom we are drawn together by common places of work or learning, by common aspirations and values.

**People: Strengthen the ties between us, and may we find in these relationships the freedom and companionship and community that nurture us and the world around us.**

**Eric:** We pray for our fellow citizens, those with whom we are drawn together by birthplace and nation, by regional ties and societal traditions.

**People: Fashion these bonds so to insure the relationships and ideals we claim are paid more than lip-service, so that who we are and have been, never closes us to who we may yet become.**

**Eric:** We pray for those who are part of this community; whether it be the church or of our relationship with Shanks Cemetery, in however we are drawn together by a common faith and uncommon grace.

**People: May we thrive in ministry, may we expand in mission, may we deepen in spirituality, and may we grow closer to one another and you.**

**Eric:** We pray for those who are fashioned in your image, with whom we are drawn together in one family.

**People: We pray to you, O God, grant us the courage and compassion to live for you.**

**Eric:** Eternal God, we have no reason to fear for we know that, in life or in death, we will always belong to you.

**People: Protecting God, we pray for those in our community who are recovering, hurting, or feel all alone.**

**Eric:** We give thanks for all those in our lives, who like you, offer protection, and comforted us when we were afraid.

**People: We pray for those families who have lost their loved ones, and now they are the one the family counts on.**

**Eric:** We pray for the families of those who have interned here at Shanks over the past year; Terry Shanks, Janice Foster and Irwin Fisher. May their stories continue to be with us, to lead us and guide us with their love.

**People: May each of us take a moment to remember our loved ones** (silence)

**Eric:** All these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts, we offer to you in the words of Jesus;

*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.*

### **Benediction:**

**Eric:** Go from this place finding the strength to right any wrongs, to offer peace and love wherever it is needed in our world today, now and forever more.

### **Go Now in Peace:**

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, Amen, Amen.

**Postlude:** “The Family of God” – Christie Coatsworth

## ***Thank You:***

- \* On behalf of the Community that is connected with Shanks Cemetery, thank you to the dedicated Board Members who ensure Shanks is very well looked after.
- \* Thank you to each of you who continue to support Shanks Cemetery and its Board.
- \* To the Chair of the Board; Brian Authier for his support and help in organizing this service.
- \* Thank you to Mike and Brett for reading our Story today.