

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

**Prelude:** by Christie Coatsworth

## **Welcome & Announcements:**

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)

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

### **Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** Come into God's love.

**People:** God's love stretches wide, ready to embrace all with love.

**Eric:** Come thirsty for the presence of God, ready to satisfy every thirst.

**People:** Come to find a caring touch, ready to know grace in this community.

**Eric:** Come together, full of welcome.

**People:** Ready to drink deeply in God's presence.

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

### **Opening Hymn:** VU 343 "I Love to Tell the Story"

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. R

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. R \*\*

### **Opening Prayer:**

**People:** Water is a blessing; so is your word, O God. We open our hearts and minds to your spirit. May we drink it in, may it flow within us and around us, and take up residency in our souls. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## **Children's Story & Lord's Prayer:**

### **Children's Hymn: VU 337 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"**

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,  
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;  
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,  
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea  
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!  
And how the Master, ready and kind,  
chided the billows and hushed the wind.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,  
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;  
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing  
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!

Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;  
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.  
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.\*\*

### **Scripture: Matthew 10: 40 - 42**

**Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me. Anyone who welcomes a prophet, just because that person is a prophet, will be given the same reward as a prophet. Anyone who welcomes a good person, just because that person is good, will be given the same reward as a good person. And anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a cup of cool water, just because that person is my follower, will be rewarded.**

### **Reflection: "Welcoming Community"**

Rural Churches are known to be welcoming communities of faith. Some of that may be that we know our community and those who make up our community. We are friendly folks and when new people move into our community, someone stops by to welcome them and to offer a hand if needed. We understand "that" to be welcoming and inviting. But sometimes it is received as being nosey and intrusive. Yet we offer our welcomes and those whom we are welcoming will receive it as they will. We live in a free country.

Today's scripture is short and to the point. We as Christians are to welcome and tend to others. We ourselves should be open to receive the hospitality brought to us by others. In Rural communities, neighbours offer a casserole to those who have lost someone. We understand that life becomes very busy, and that preparing meals is another job that you'd rather not have. We are tending to the other who needs support. Food is a perfect opportunity to connect and support.

In Matthew's time and place of Israel, water was a precious commodity and a powerful symbol. Life depended on water and welcome. Hospitality was the greatest obligation, and there were strict social conventions regarding hospitality in the traditions of all the people of this region. A household was obliged to offer any visitor or traveler – known or a stranger – food and water, the opportunity to wash, shelter, and protection.

A messenger or servant was to be treated with the same hospitality as the person who sent them. One welcomed not just an individual but the community from which they came. In essence, a host became integrally bound with those they welcomed.

This is the world into which Jesus is sending his disciples. While Matthew's Jesus promotes the idea that those who welcome a disciple also welcome Jesus and God, he prepares them for the possibility that they will not be welcomed. In this time of the early church, it could be risky to welcome followers of Jesus – risky to the host and to the disciple. The "reward" might well be persecution from the Roman authorities or the wider community.

For those who are sent out in Jesus' name in Matthew's time – it was a risky business. Their reliance on the hospitality of the people they encounter and the welcome they receive is, in a sense, the key to the success of their mission.

Matthew encourages us to go beyond what is comfortable and go out into our communities showing God's love through even our most simple actions, such as giving a cup of water. As we live as faithful disciples, our actions include serving and welcoming one another into diverse communities where "God" is the host, where "all" are guests, and where "no one" is a stranger.

Matthew's message is about the giving and receiving of hospitality. Who might be excluded with our welcomes; the unloved, the excluded, the unwashed, the provokers and dissenters, the bad? In welcoming "the other," Jesus crossed cultural,

race, gender, and social class boundaries. Does our rural hospitality come out of our faith, or is it part of our rural culture?

What might it be, that stops us from welcoming all – being a truly inclusive and participatory community? It could be our rural culture which offers rewards for hard work. Or it could be our desire for safety. Yet there are times when someone reaches out, and the life of the receiver is changed. That is the kind of hospitality we are being encouraged to offer to all.

I am sure we each have a story about our experiences of feeling welcomed – or unwelcomed – in groups. Recognizing that many churches seek to be welcoming communities, we are being challenged to seek to deepen what it means to welcome. The thought that even one cup of water can make someone feel welcome. What feelings welled up in you when you recall a time you felt very welcomed? This is the wellspring of emotion that will guide you as you offer hospitality to others.

As our rural communities become more diversified, we need to understand and honour the fact that different cultures and traditions have different ideas about what welcoming means. Yet the thought that even one cup of water can make someone feel welcome is an universal act of kindness. It is simple, yet powerful. Like the neighbour who drops off a plate of cookies or muffins to their new neighbour, these are simple act of kindness and welcome.

As people of faith, we offer God’s kindness and welcome to others. Just a cup of water, may be all it takes to change someone life. Let us be the faith community that reaches out for fresh understanding. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 337 “Blessed Assurance”**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. R \*\*

### **Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** Thank You for all your gifts. Your gifts of time, talent, skills, prayers and money. All of these gifts added together, makes us the Church. We as givers are so blessed we can give. May those who receive - also know they are blessed. Thank you for being the church!

### **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:** May we find in our giving this day the refreshment and renewal of sharing what we have been given and share in another's thirst. May we pour out grace upon grace so that God's love truly has no end. Amen.

### **Chorus to Prayer: VU 892 "Who Comes From God"**

Who comes from God, as Word and Breath?  
Holy Wisdom.  
Who holds the keys of life and death?  
Mighty Wisdom.  
Crafter and Creator too,  
Eldest, she makes all things new;  
Wisdom guides what God will do,  
Wisest One, Radiant One, welcome, Holy Wisdom.

### **Pastoral Prayer:**

### **Closing Hymn: VU 642 "Be Thou My Vision"**

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,

thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all. \*\*

**Benediction:**

Eric: As you leave this time of worship - go in the knowledge that God will always love you, now and forever more.

**Closing Hymn: MV 145 "Draw the Circle Wide" (2X)**

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.  
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide...

Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen. (2X)

**Postlude:** – 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:**

**Carol  
Cheryl  
Susan  
Barb  
Margie  
Jerry**

**Larry  
Ken  
Natalie**

**Evelyn  
Farqaharson Family (Reg)  
Elaine**

**Gary  
Janet  
David  
Alice**