

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *“Service In The Park” – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**Greetings:** From Cleata Morris – Friends of Buxton Male Choir

**Prelude:** “Leaning On the Everlasting Arms” – FBMC

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain.*  
*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;*  
*Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;*  
*Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.  
*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;*  
*Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

**Greetings:** From David Middleton – North Buxton Community Church.

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to our Service today as we celebrate our “Service in the Park” virtually, with our friends in North Buxton. We WILL miss the BBQ and potluck, but with the North Buxton Park closed, and with the Labour Day Homecoming events on hold for 2020, we look forward to when we can gather again in Community next year. Our songs today have music and sung words – feel free to sing along.

I am still visiting folks outside in the fresh air for the next week. Call me or I’ll call you to set up a time, and if it works for you, we can visit.

Next Sunday on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be our last online service until August 30<sup>th</sup>. The August 30<sup>th</sup> service will also be online. The Church Boards will meet in September to decide how we will move forward in September. Annette and I hope to be traveling for the three weeks of the middle of August. Pastor Andrew Gilliland (Charing Cross Pastoral Charge – (519-358-2147)

will be around those weeks I am away. Sharon Campbell Rayment (519-401-5529) has offered to help if needed.

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 The Friends of Buxton Male Choir offer the music for today's service. The songs chosen today are from their two recorded CD's – one for which Lois Pratt played for, and Debi Guy on the other. Thank YOU to Buxton Next Generation for offering to share 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:** As we gather to worship, we thank you God.

**People:** **We thank you for the many blessings of our lives.**

**Eric:** We raise our voices in praise, remembering your wonderful works in our lives.

**People:** **In line with our ancestors in faith, with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, we praise you for the opportunities we have known.**

**Eric:** For the work we are able to get; for the doors that are opened to us;

**People:** **for the privileges in life.**

**Eric:** For all the ways you have been our provider and defender, we praise you.

**People:** **Be with us as we worship, and hear our voices, lifted in praise. Hear us, see us, be with us, and bless our lives as we worship.**

**Eric:** Come let us worship.

### **FBMC Hymn: “Wonderful Words of Life”**

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life,  
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;  
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessèd One, gives to all wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;  
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Sweetly echo the Gospel call, wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;  
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify us forever.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

### **Opening Prayer:**

**Loving God, we praise you for the opportunity to gather in worship. Open our hearts as we bring ourselves before you in humble desire to follow your ways and know your wisdom. Open our eyes and help us see how our lives impact others and this created world. Open our ears and help us to hear the voices of those who have been silenced for too long. Open our minds and help us to understand our impact on the world and our more rightful place in it. Show us your glory, and guide our thoughts and reflections as we worship, we pray. Amen.**

**Greetings:** From Michelle Robbins – Buxton Next Generation.

### **Scripture: Genesis 29** – Jacob Loves Rachel – In Story Form – by Buxton Next Generation

Jacob was staring again. He had a soft smile on his face. And, he had stopped working. His friend poked him on the shoulder. “Hellllo, Jacob?” he called into Jacob’s ear. “Are you there? Come back to reality! Stop staring!” Jacob looked at his friend. He replied, “I can’t help myself.” Jacob suddenly leapt up and shouted, “I’m in love!!”

His friend grabbed Jacob and urged him to sit down. “Stop it!” he exclaimed. “We have work to do! You can’t just keep jumping up and telling people that you are in love! You need to earn your wages for the day.” He paused, “Who is it that you think that you love?”

Jacob whispered, “I love Rachel.” His friend was shocked. “Rachel?! What?! You mean Laban’s daughter?” He shook his head and wagged his finger at Jacob. “No, no, no. Laban owns the fields where you work. He decides how much you get paid. He’s not going to let you marry his younger daughter! You are just a worker!”

“Well,” began Jacob, “I don’t think I have anything to lose if I just ask Laban what he thinks.” His friend thought Jacob was crazy but wished him luck. Jacob went to see Laban. He knew that even though he loved Rachel very much they could not get married without her father’s permission. Jacob quietly told Laban that he loved his daughter Rachel. Then, Jacob asked Laban if he could marry Rachel.

Laban began, “Jacob, you know that a younger sister cannot marry before her older sister; that is our custom.” Jacob interrupted and burst out, “But I love Rachel!” There was a brief pause. Laban stated plainly, “So then yes, you can marry Rachel.” Jacob was so excited! He could marry the woman that he loved! “But,” continued Laban, you need to work for me for seven years without pay. Jacob did not think that was fair, but he loved Rachel, so he agreed. Jacob worked for Laban for seven years. He did not complain once during that time. He worked and looked forward to marrying Rachel.

Years passed, and then, Jacob’s dream day arrived – his wedding day to Rachel! He could barely contain his excitement at the wedding ceremony. The bride’s face was covered with a veil at the wedding, and Jacob could not see her face. But Jacob didn’t care – he would soon see her and talk with her. After the wedding, Jacob lifted the veil to look at her. He was stunned. It was not Rachel under the veil – his was her sister, Leah!

Jacob stormed over to Laban. “What have you done? I worked for you without pay for seven years so that I could marry Rachel! I love her! Why did you trick me?” Laban asked, “Do you

still want to marry Rachel?” Jacob nodded yes and whispered, “Leah is a good wonderful woman, but I wanted to marry Rachel.”

“It’s simple,” Laban laughed, “You can marry more than one woman. Go ahead you can marry Rachel now, too. Then you can work for me for seven more years.” At first, Jacob was angry. But, he loved Rachel. So, he agreed. Many years passed, and Jacob began to love Leah, too. Jacob had two wives, and he loved both Leah and Rachel. And Jacob had many, many children.

### **Message: “Living in Love”**

I love the stories of the Old Testament that shares with us the lives of our early faith ancestors. Today we hear the story of Jacob and his love for Rachel. Jacob has hightailed it away from his family, because he had tricked his father into giving Jacob the blessing that was meant for the oldest brother Esau. It seemed as we were leading up to the story, Esau was willing to give away his birthrights for a bowl of lentil soup. It was kind of like, “He did not care”. Oh, the words of youth. There are times in our lives when we do not value what we have, and we take it for granted. Then life shows us how important what we have really is, especially when it is taken away from us. Each one of us can relate to this just by thinking of that freedom we had four months ago to gather, share breakfast together, hug and shake hands with one another. Since the middle of March, we cannot do any of those things. I am sure you like me took those values for granted. Oh, how I miss them when I can’t have them.

Jacob runs to the edge of his father’s land and finds himself in Laban’s land. Laban is Jacob’s uncle related to him through his grandfather Abraham – Laban is Jacob’s mother, Rebekah’s brother. Jacob starts to work for Uncle Laban. Then Jacob notices his younger cousin Rachel. Not only does Jacob notice her, but he is imagining Rachel as his wife. From a distance he falls in love. We really do not get Rachel’s side of the story – did she too notice her cousin Jacob? Did she fall in love with him from a distance? Jacob is so in love with Rachel, that he goes to her father – his boss - and asks for Rachel’s hand in marriage. The problem is Laban explains is that Rachel’s older sister Leah is not yet married or spoken for, and tradition is that the older siblings are married off first. Jacob stands up and tells his Uncle that he wants Rachel. They strike a deal that Jacob will work for Laban for 7 years without pay, therefore effectively paying the dowry needed to marry his daughter. Jacob (in love) agrees.

The seven years quickly pass. It seems like no one had claimed Leah in marriage so Laban uses a few tricks up his sleeve to trick Jacob and places Leah in place of Rachel to marry Jacob. Jacob is not happy. I’m thinking Rachel or Leah are also not happy. They are being used as pawns in Laban’s Chess Game of tricking Jacob. The women do not say anything. Maybe they did to their father, but were told to keep quiet and do as they are told. We are not really sure, but the end result is that Jacob marries Leah. Of course, Jacob is furious at his Uncle Laban, especially after he has worked seven years without pay, and his uncle tricks him.

Uncle Laban says, “No problem, you can have Rachel - if you work for me another seven years without pay”. Jacob is so in love with Rachel that he agrees. Life moves along with his

marriage to Leah because together they have many sons. Later Jacob and Rachel have two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Jacob's twelve sons will later make up the twelve tribes of Israel.

What a great love story. It warms our heart to see the love that our great faith ancestor had for his wife – actually wives, as we are told that Jacob came to also love Leah. Notice that God does not call the squeaky clean ones in the story. Jacob tricks his twin brother and his dying father – runs to the next country so to speak, and then is tricked by his own Uncle. Yet Jacob's love story is instrumental in our faith story, as God promises to be with Jacob.

In this story we hear the silence of Rachel and Leah, who are traded as a mere commodity by their father, Laban. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear these women are only biding their time. They knew what their father was like. He may have caught Jacob off guard, but it would come as no surprise to the women that their father Laban would swap out Leah for Rachel on Rachel's wedding night. This swap would give Laban advantage with and over Jacob. Laban is the boss. Laban will show you how it is done.

We have many stories in the Bible that share times of oppression or of imperial dominance. The Exodus story is about the control of the Egyptians over the Israelites. The exodus to Babylon is another time, where the Israelites are used as pawns in the bigger game of creating power through domination. In Jesus' time the Israelites are under the rule of the Roman Empire. Crucifixion was the Roman's way of domination over those they wanted to control. So the Israelites would connect to these stories maybe in ways that we would not. For them it may not have been so much a love story, as a story of manipulative power over that young whipper snapper, Jacob.

Our music today is African Spirituals, sung by the Friends of Buxton Male Choir. These songs, as most African Spirituals speak to each of our hearts, likely because each of us have had times that we have been silenced or cohered. In our recent North American history, we understand how the Black people where enslaved to work for the power of the day. They like the Israelites know what it is like to not have a say in your own life. So they sing their spirituals that has the power to connect us as one, in our shared experiences.

Reverend William King said that if the Black man and the White man had equal opportunities, they would both do very well. Reverend King created the Buxton Settlement and offered good education to the coloured folks. Soon the White folks where asking for the same opportunity, and in Buxton, Blacks and Whites worked together to build a community – strong and free – full of opportunities. The only thing that would hold a man down - was himself. Together with hard work, the community grew and prospered. No one took their life in Buxton for granted. They seized the opportunities that Reverend King made available to them. Together they built this amazing community that we benefit from today.

Today all of us in this community are restricted in many ways because of the COVID 19 pandemic. To stay safe we need to practice safe distances, no contact and even masks or shields. This is not good for us - country church folks. When we get together each year at the North Buxton Park, we hug, shake hands, get in each other's face and ask them how they are doing. We sing together with the Friends of Buxton Male Choir, being lead by Cleata Morris and Debi

Guy playing those wonderful songs that each of us can sing along to. We laugh together. We cry together when a beloved Pastor crosses the Jordan to go home. On the last Sunday of July, we each bring a dish and desserts, and we light up the BBQ and cook up hamburgers and hotdogs. Then we share that meal together, sitting across from each other at the picnic tables, sharing stories and food. We can't do that this year. I for one, am so disappointed as I will miss our community celebration. Yet this week as I have prepared for this online service, I visited 6 feet apart with many folks from North Buxton. I videoed their greeting and well wishes. We laughed some, and shared stories of how we were all doing. Cleata said, "Go ahead and use whatever songs you want off the CD's because we are proud to be part of this day, even if we cannot be there physically".

However, when we reflect on what happens after Jacob finally marries Rachel, we see how Leah and Rachel find their voices and convince Jacob it is time for them to leave Laban, and head out to find their own future. The wives of Jacob may have heard how Jacob's mother, Rebecca, had herself challenged patriarchal norms with her own acts of resistance. Jacob seems to be creating a future where the three of them work together as a family unit. The lesson here may be that silence is not the same as acceptance. The sisters remain free to act when the time feels right. Their silence enables Leah and Rachel to play their part in God's unfolding story of freedom, liberation, and eventually a new covenant.

At first glance, today's story from Genesis could be seen as the simple story of how Jacob became married to Rachel, who would become the mother of Joseph, Jacob's favoured son. Yet this story also embodies stories of those silenced, maybe by others, or maybe by life. Even though God is not mentioned in this story, God's work is being done behind the scenes. God is there, regardless of whether we can actually see God.

Like our lives today, we sometimes have to do things that we have no say in. Hopefully they are things and actions that are to the betterment of us all, such as distancing and mask wearing. Where might we find God in all that we are doing right now? Keeping us connected as a community of believers is the most important job I can do, and you can also help us to do that in our wider community. As community leaders, the time is not right to go out and shout from the roof tops, "Go ahead, do what you want"!

But that time will come. Until then, may we as community leaders work together for the safe return to whatever will be our "new normal". In what we are doing today, and in what we will need to do for tomorrow, God continues to work through us. God has given us the patience to stick with the technology to get it working just a bit better each week. God has given us the nudge to call those who are on our minds, and help them preserve through these uncertain times. God works in you and I to keep connected, so we never feel alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

### **FBMC Hymn: "Nobody Knows the Trouble I See"**

Nobody knows the trouble I see  
Nobody knows my sorrow

Nobody knows the trouble I see  
Glory hallelujah!

Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down  
Oh, yes, Lord  
Sometimes I'm almost to the ground  
Oh, yes, Lord  
Nobody knows the trouble I see  
Nobody knows my sorrow  
Nobody knows the trouble I see  
Glory hallelujah!

Although you see me going 'long so  
Oh, yes, Lord  
I have my trials here below  
Oh, yes, Lord  
Nobody knows the trouble I see  
Nobody knows my sorrow  
Nobody knows the trouble I see  
Glory hallelujah!

### **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:**

**We dedicate this offering to all who have been used, silenced, unseen, and forgotten. Bless it, we pray, with the yeast to make spirits rise. Transform it into the bread of life for the hungry of this world. Make it shine like the jewels of glory discovered by those who need your strength the most. Amen.**

### **FBMC Hymn: "Standing in the Need of Prayer"**

Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

### **Pastoral Prayer:**

**Eric:** Loving God, help us to hear the voices of others in our world; help us to notice and care.

**People:** Holy Creator, give us the strength to speak up and tell our stories; show us the places in this world where our realities can be held as true and holy and valuable.

**Eric:** Gracious Provider, we thank you that you have given us the diversity of experience from which to learn and grow.

(silence)

**People:** We thank you, Beloved Saviour, for walking this journey with us and giving us companions in love and justice.

**Eric:** Show us how to be a people united and in true communion with each other.

**People:** For all who feel silenced, we lift our voices in compassion; for all who feel treated like property, we pray your dignity and renewal; for all who have suffered the indignities of patriarchy and the oppressions of power-mongering, we pray for healing and wholeness. May we be one. May we be true in our pursuits of your ways.

**Eric:** May the spirit be poured on us all.

**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:** All these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts, we offer to you in the words of Jesus, as we sing along with the Friends of Buxton Male Choir, as they sing the Lord's Prayer;

**FBMC Hymn: "The Lord's Prayer"**

Our Father which 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 debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
And lead us not into temptation.  
But deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory.  
Forever. Amen.

**Benediction:**

**Eric:** Let us go into the world and listen closely to all stories. Let us go into the world transformed by the blessings in God's holy design, now and forever more.

**FBMC Hymn: "Battle Hymn of the Republic"**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord  
He is trampling out the vintage  
where the grapes of wrath are stored  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning  
of His terrible swift sword  
His truth is marching on, His truth is marching  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires  
of a hundred circling camps  
They have builded Him an altar  
in the evening dews and damps  
I can read His righteous sentence  
by the dim and flaring lamps  
His day is marching on  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea

With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me  
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free  
While God is marching on  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!

**Postlude:** “When the Roll is Called up Yonder” – FBMC

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,  
and time shall be no more,  
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair  
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.

On that bright and cloudless morning  
when the dead in Christ shall rise,  
And the glory of His resurrection share  
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home  
beyond the skies,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun,  
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care  
Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth is done,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll, is called up yon-der,  
When the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there

**Thank You:**

\* To all who helped out with today’s Service.