

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Sixth after Pentecost – July 4th, 2021

Prelude: “Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven” – Christie Coatsworth

Holiday Weekends:

On Holiday Weekends when July 1st Canada Day and July 4th Independence Day are on the ends of the July 1st weekend, many border towns offer celebrations for both nations - which we are doing this morning.

Star Spangled Banner:

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming.
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
For the land of the free and the home of the brave?

O Canada:

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Welcome & Announcements:

We have a few events going on in our community; the first one is the Alzheimer's Zoom online learnings, each Wednesday of July from 10:30 to 11:30 am. See poster for details.

The second is the series of weekly outdoor concerts in Dresden in the Total Grain Parking Lot “Hwy 21 on the Bend” at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair or stay in your car. Please follow all COVID Guidelines.

The third event is St. Andrew's in Chatham is hosting their “Saturday at 7 Series” on Facebook Live on Saturday July 10 at 7 pm. See the poster for more details.

Good morning! Thank you for your support of last week's Canada Day Service at the South Raleigh Fire Hall – Station 16. Thank you to the firefighters for taking such a huge role in last week's service.

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

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

We do a great job of supporting our local Food Banks. A heads up from the Merlin Food Bank – they are finding it difficult to keep up with food donations versus the demand. If you would like to donate food to the Merlin Food Bank; you can drop it off at the Merlin United Church any Friday after 10 am, or leave it at St. Andrew's and we will get it there. If you wish to donate cash to help their needs, you could also drop it off on Friday at 10 am or donate through your Church Treasurer and the money will be passed along. Please memo the Merlin Food Bank into your online donations or on your cheque. Thank you.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: In our virtual sanctuaries, in our home, in the countryside, we say: God is great and so worthy of our praise!

People: God's praise and reputation extend to the far corners of Earth. Let the people rejoice!

Eric: Let our own community rejoice, saying:

People: This is God, our God, forever and always! God is the one who will lead us even to the very end.

Eric: Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer:

Gather us together in your Holy Space today. Hear our prayers, receive our praise, equip us with your word, and then, as you sent out the Twelve, send us out to share your message of hope, healing, and redemption. Amen.

Scripture: Mark 6: 1 - 13 "Jesus Returns Home" – The Vaughan Family

Wow! Who is this guy?" they whispered. "I heard he can perform miracles; I heard he can heal the sick." "Well, I heard he works on the Sabbath!"

Jesus had just finished preaching at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. It had been a long time since he had been home and he was excited to bring his disciples with him to the place where he grew up. He had been looking forward to seeing his family and catching up with old friends, all while sharing the good news of God.

But soon, a new whisper went around the crowd. Someone said, "Wait – this is Jesus! You know, the carpenter's son! Remember him? I know some of his sisters." Then another spoke up, "Why does he think he is so special? He's just one of us!" "Yeah," added another, "We don't have to listen to him; let's go home." The crowd dispersed, mumbling, and Jesus was left alone with his disciples.

The disciples looked warily at Jesus. Surely he would be disappointed, angry even, that the people in his hometown didn't take him seriously. But Jesus sighed deeply. "Funny," he chuckled, "people come from all over Galilee to hear me talk about God, but the people here still see me as a 12-year-old, reading in the temple." He shook his head. "I guess they aren't ready yet." And because the people didn't believe, Jesus found he could do only a few miracles there, healing a few of the sick. Jesus then moved on to the next village.

Along the way, Jesus smiled at his disciples and said, "I want you to travel to villages and help me show and tell the people about God's love." The disciples looked at each other and shook their heads. They were full of questions, "What if people won't listen to us like they didn't listen to you in Nazareth? To what villages will we go? What will we take with us?" "You don't need to take anything with you; no food or money will be needed. Just go, and in each village find a home that will welcome you for as long as you need to stay there. If you find people won't listen to you, don't get angry. Just dust off your sandals and move on to the next village, like I did."

The disciples did as Jesus asked, healing the sick and spreading the word to all who chose to listen and believe.

Message: "Shake the Dust from your Feet"

For the past month we have been talking about leadership - leadership in the church and leadership in the wider community. As anyone knows, leadership is tough work. Unexpected obstacles come up, circumstances change, and we as leaders are responsible for keeping it together. Today's story shows us how the great leader Jesus, dealt with those unexpected obstacles and circumstances. If people are not ready – move on. This outlook helps us to stay the course, as we share the good news with others. We succeed in the work we do, when we follow God, and use the measures that God has provided to us as the Church.

Jesus' credibility and ministry is questioned by his own hometown, we are told in today's story. These people have known Jesus the longest, and they also know Jesus before he entered into ministry. They focus on Jesus as the 12 year old reading scripture in the temple, instead of noticing the work that Jesus is currently doing. They are more focused on Jesus' family roots. Jesus responds to their rejection by limiting his ministry in that area. "They are not ready yet", Jesus says. Jesus could only do a few miracles there, because they did not believe. Miracles require belief, so it seems.

Jesus then sends the disciples out into the surrounding villages and towns. It seems that Jesus' very disciples react in the way we might react. "Where do we go?" "What do we say?" "What do we take with us?" "What if the people won't listen to us – after all we are not you, Jesus?" Jesus gives those questioning disciples the authority to act in Jesus' place. Jesus tells them to take nothing with them. This command forces the disciples to rely on the hospitality of those to whom they are preaching. This command could also be interpreted as a way of living by

faith. It may also be interpreted as a call to a life of simplicity in what we know as the monastic tradition. It may be possible that other travelers, such as salespeople and philosophers, came to town and requested financial enrichment from their preaching and talking. Jesus disciples are different. They bring the Good News in return for hospitality.

Jesus' hometown crowd didn't think much of him – they said he was behaving way above his rank. Why weren't they happy a local had made good? Human nature is like that, when people we know change, we don't hesitate to remind them of the shortcomings of their past as if their changing is offensive to us. But God's story is one of transformation; shepherds become kings, fisher-folk become evangelists. God desires authentic change.

Nelson Mandela may be one of the best examples of leadership in our modern world. When Nelson was released from prison after 27 years, one might wonder how he would address his fellow citizens. Would he be defiant? angry? bitter? seeking revenge? What kind of leader would emerge after such a lengthy confinement?

Mandela addressed tens of thousands of supporters who gathered at Cape Town City Hall, beginning with these words: "Comrades and fellow South Africans, I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom." "I stand here before you not as a prophet, but as a humble servant of you the people..." Mandela is revered as a humble, resilient leader seeking peace, unity, and reconciliation for the people of South Africa.

A lesson that biblical and contemporary leaders struggle to learn, is it is on the other side of our failures, where the lessons are apparent. Today, we see Jesus and the disciples' reliance on God, and the importance of keeping our relationships with God in the forefront. Because we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 560 "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"

- 1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,

and guide them in the homeward way.

- 3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: In our attempt to follow Christ, we journey with much more than just a walking stick; we take money, bread, clothing, and other comforts we deem to be essential. Yet many of our neighbours lack these very things. Let us share our gifts with those in need, as a testimony to God's grace. 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:

People: Loving Christ, thank you for teaching us your healing ways, and for entrusting us with your message. Thank you for your generosity of bread and clothing and money of which you spoke so long ago. These are items we cannot imagine travelling without, and basics that many people struggle to attain. Receive our offering today; may it be used to ease the suffering of those you love here in our hometown and beyond. May our praise extend to the far corners of Earth. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: We thank you for journeying with us, Jesus.

People: Thank You for setting an example of resilience in times of trial.

Eric: Travelling this road is not easy.

People: We admit we'd rather play it safe than risk rejection as your disciples.

Eric: Grant us the strength to be resilient, unfaltering, and determined to become the people you have called us to be.

People: We dream of being leaders with heart and humility, strength and tenacity, servants not tyrants, following you and emulating your leadership.

Eric: Yet let us also be content with whatever hardships we bear for your sake, Jesus; Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

People: When the world's leaders fail to act justly, give them wisdom and courage. Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

Eric: When the church falters in its efforts on your behalf, renew our spirits and our determination. Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

People: When we second-guess our ability to do your will, restore our sense of purpose. Change our hearts and lives, O God, we pray.

Eric: We offer our prayers in Jesus' Name as we pray his prayer...

*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: Let us go, because Christ gives us authority. Go in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, 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: "Nimrod, by Elgar" – 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:	Karen	Ingrid	Francine
	Jasmine	Betty	Melissa
	Tom	Special: Susan	Paul
	George	Zoe	Dorothy
	Cindy & Connie	Becky	Jennette
	Lynn	Earl	Brian
	Jan	Barry/ Marsha	Residential
	Len	Glen	Schools
	Brenda	Billy	The Trudell
	Adam	Leone	Family (Allan)