

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Pardoville Cemetery Sunday – July 5th, 2020

Prelude: “Amazing Grace” - Christie Coatsworth

Greetings: From Mary Depuydt – Pardoville Cemetery Board Chair.

Welcome & Announcements:

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

I am visiting folks outside in the fresh air. I will bring my own lawn chair, and we can meet under the shade tree or on your back deck. I'm not wishing to do indoors visiting yet – just in case. I call you, and if it works for you, we will visit.

A few announcements this morning – picture of Rylie Puchnatyj. Granddaughter of Madeline Shanks.

Picture of Drew and Amber's Dalglish's boy, Reid. Grandson of Danny and Jone Dalglish.

In our series of Cemetery Remembrance Services; we are planning the Shanks Cemetery Service for next Sunday morning's service, and the Ouvry Service for the 19th..

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at southbuxton.ca, and talbotstreet.ca

We are blessed to have Christie Coatsworth offer the music for today's service. Thank YOU to Kevin Drewery for sharing the Scripture this morning.

Remember our local Food Banks - as today is the first Sunday of the month. St. Andrew's was open yesterday, and those donations will be delivered to Blenheim this Tuesday. Thank you for your donations.

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: God invites all who are weary to come.

People: Come now with the burdens of work, home, and community.

Eric: Jesus promises, I will give you rest.

People: God invites all who are weary to come.

Eric: Come now with the burdens of illness, of fear, of hopelessness.

People: Jesus promises, I will give you rest.

Eric: God invites all who are weary to come.

People: **Come now with the burdens of anger, of prejudice, of alienation.**

Eric: Jesus promises, I will give you rest.

People: **God invites all who are weary to come.**

Eric: God invites all who are weary to lay down their burdens.

People: **God invites all who are weary to find peace. We gather in hope and to rest in God.**

Eric: Come, let us worship.

Hymn: “I Will Make You Fishers of Men” – Second Verse

Hear Christ calling “Come unto me, Come on to me, Come on to me”,

Hear Christ calling “Come unto me, I will give you rest”.

“I will give you rest, I will give you rest”.

Hear Christ calling “Come unto me, I will give you rest”.

Opening Prayer:

God of Sabbath promise; you created not only work, but the blessing of rest. Often we feel exhausted, overstressed, and overwhelmed, in need of renewal and refreshment, – to be re-created. Help us to take up your invitation of respite for our souls and spirits, of comfort for our bodies and minds, of a pause for quiet, for sabbatical, for holiday. Open us to receive your gentling Spirit and your relaxing presence. Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 24 – Selected Verses – In Story Form – by Kevin Drewery

I am Abraham’s servant. God has blessed my master in a multitude of ways; he has become a great and wealthy man. God has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, camels and donkeys. Sarah, my master’s wife, gave birth to his son when she was quite old, and Abraham has passed on all he has to him. My master made me swear, saying, “You will not arrange for my son to marry any of the Canaanite daughters here where we are living; instead, you will go to my father’s house – to my own relatives to find a wife for my son.”

I arrived here today and came to the spring and said a prayer: “God of my master Abraham, if You will only make my trip successful! You see that I am standing here by the spring. Let the young woman who comes out to draw water and to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ and who will reply to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw water for your camels,’ let her be the woman God has chosen to be a wife for my master’s son.” Before I could even finish speaking to God from my heart, Rebekah approached the spring with her water jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, “Please let me have a drink,” and she quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, “Drink, and I will also give your camels some water.” So I drank, and she made sure my camels had enough water. Then I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” And she said, “The daughter of Bethuel.” That’s when I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms.

Then I bowed my head and worshipped, and blessed the God of my master Abraham because He led me in the right direction and to the right place in order to find the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son. Now then, if you intend to show loyal love and faithfulness to my master, tell me. If not, also tell me, so that I know which way to go from here.

Later Rebekah's Mother asked Rebekah, "Are you willing to go with this man? Rebekah answered, "Yes, I will go".

So the family gathered and sent Rebekah to go with Abraham's servant and his men. They all blessed Rebekah, saying, "May you, our dear sister, be blessed with thousands upon thousands of children, and may your descendants possess the cities of their enemies".

At last Rebekah and her maidservants all went out, mounted the camels, and followed Abraham's trusted servant back toward Canaan. This is how the servant found Rebekah and took her to be Isaac's wife.

Isaac went outside that evening to take a walk in the field. As he was deep in thought, he looked up and saw the camels coming toward him. At the same time, Rebekah looked up; and when she saw Isaac, she slipped down quickly from the camel, and asked to the servant, "Who is that man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The Servant replied, "He is my master's son".

Rebekah took her veil and covered herself. When Isaac reached them, the servant told him all of the amazing things that had happened. "Then Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent. He took her as his wife and slept with her, and grew to love her deeply. In this way, Isaac found comfort in the wake of his mother's death.

Message: "A Love That Keeps on Giving"

Why are you "here" today? I would assume you are "here" to share the love you have for the person you are honouring today who has been laid to rest in the Pardoville Union Cemetery. Have you heard their love story? Do you know their love story? Like how did your mom and dad meet? Was there a story behind their relationship that led them to marry? You may remember the love shared with you and your siblings? Then when you got married and had kids of your own, of how your parents loved their grandchildren. How your parents spoiled your kids before you came to pick them up. Love is what makes our families so special. "Love is what makes the world go around", they say.

The hero in today's story is Rebekah, who will become Isaac's wife, and her example of offering hospitality to a stranger. Yet we find out that this stranger is not just here for water. He is here to find a good wife for his Master's son. This story shares the reasons why Abraham's servant has come to Nabor – because distant relatives of Abraham live here. Abraham felt it very important for his son to be married to a woman from his extended family. But just not any woman, but a woman who will offer hospitality, be genuine, and make a good wife for Isaac. How to find that special woman?

It looks like God is blessing this way of finding a wife for Isaac. Abraham's servant prays and comes up with the idea of how he will find the perfect woman for Isaac – or in his praying God gives Abraham's servant a vision of how to find the perfect wife for Isaac. God does work in mysterious ways.

The plan is to ask the woman who comes to the well, for a drink of water. First of all if you are looking for a woman, going to the well was the perfect place to see women, as they were the ones who fetched the daily water. First lesson – go to where the women go! But the right

woman would not only give you a drink of water, but also offer to water your camels. The woman who would be willing to do this would be a very confident woman, who was very sure of herself, who was not afraid of strangers. She would be a woman who is not afraid of hard work, as she offers to also water his camels. And I'm thinking camels take a lot of water, which meant pulling up pail after pail of water until the camels are no longer thirsty.

I think we can see that God was part of Isaac and Rebekah's getting together and becoming husband and wife. Have you felt that God was in your relationship? Do you feel your relationship was divinely created? If you had to travel a distance to meet your significant other, how did you feel leaving home and venturing out to another place? This week we talked about the "war brides", who meet their husband during the war and followed them home to Canada – having very little idea what Canada was like. It was estimated that 48,000 war brides came to Canada following the Second World War.

Maybe you know of a "Mail Order Bride" who came to Canada to marry a husband that had connected to them through the mail – an earlier version of "Internet dating". Again, imagine what it would take to leave your family to venture half way around the world.

Also we've heard the stories of the Europeans who lived in England, Germany or Holland, who immigrated to Canada following the Second World War. Some of them had lost their family farms to the war, so it was better to start over in a new country than trying to rebuild in their homeland. All of our families at some point have immigrated to Canada from Europe or another country. Last names from many different nationalities are common in our rural communities. We are all Canadians now – but do you know the story of why your grandparents or great grandparents came to Canada, and why Chatham Kent?

For the Skillings clan my Great-Great-Grandfather James Skillings married in Norfolk England in 1835, and about 1840, James and Elizabeth left Edgefield, England, and sailed from the port of Southampton for Canada. They settled on Lot 6 Concession 6 of Blandford Township (Upper Canada). My great Grandfather George was born in 1856. My Grandfather James in 1898, and my dad in 1932. The Skillings family has lived in the Innerkip area for 180 years. What was it like for my Great-Great-Grandfather and young family to leave England and head to Canada?

When I walk through the Innerkip Cemetery, I see the tombstones of my ancestors. I know where my dad, my grandfather, my great-grandfather and my great-great-grandfather are each buried. When I stand in front of their stones my mind wanders back to what it was like to leave England, or what it was like to marry the Baptist Preacher's daughter from Kitchener, or as my grandmother who came from Port Rowan at the head of Long Point on Lake Erie – a good hour drive today, but would be much longer in early 1900's. I wonder how did they each meet the love of their lives? I do not know how my Grandfather met my grandmother, when they lived 80 kilometers apart. That's a story that would interest me today.

Today's stories share the experiences of our families, and especially of those who are interned here at Pardoville Cemetery. These are stories of love, of adventure, of leaving home.

These stories and the people of these stories are all named on each of these tombstones. Each tombstone can tell us or remind us of one of these stories. Each tombstone has a story to tell.

Rebekah's choice to leave her home and family echoes Abraham and Sarah's call to leave all that was familiar and journey into the unknown. Rebekah shows an extraordinary hospitality – to offer not only a drink, but to also water the camels. Rebekah offers what God required of a wife for Isaac. Rebekah accepts the offer and leaves her family to join up with Isaac and his family. Rebekah marries the love of her life and we hear many further stories of how much Isaac and Rebekah loved and cared for each other. The things we will do for love.

We come here today, and this year we come in Spirit to share our love with those gone before us. We come to remember those in life, we loved and cared for so very much. We come in love to share with our families that bond that we have because of the one we come to honour today.

We are not alone. There are times when we feel their presence over us. There are times when we know we are not alone. We remember the times when Dad shared those wise words that still speak to us today. In their memories, God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: VU 266 “Amazing Grace”

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear
 the hour I first believed.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
 I have already come;
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
 this word my hope secures;
 God will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we'd first begun.

Offering:

Eric: In the land of Nahor, God provides. In our daily living, God provides. In the actions of good people, 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. Today as we celebrate Pardoville's Cemetery Service, we ask you to send your yearly donation to Lisa Sykes. These donations ensure the many jobs will get done. Thank you!

Offering Music: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

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.

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, may our offerings of money, talents, time, energy and love be used to translate our faith into programs and ministries that is hospitable to all, including the work of Pardoville Cemetery. 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: Rebekah chose to leave her family and home to participate in a new family that grew to more than just family. Let us consider the doors of possibility before us, as we pray to move our hearts and our energies beyond the familiar to embrace the reign of God.

People: For all who thirst – whether for water or relationship, for welcome or justice, or merely a place to rest and to be: Turn our lives outward in ever-expanding senses of connection and love.

Eric: For all who struggle with choices – choices about the beginnings or endings of commitments; choices whose doors do not yet reveal the vista beyond, or the path it may bring;

People: choices about what to do with one's life, and what to do for the sake of others: Turn our lives outward in ever-expanding senses of connection and love.

Eric: For all on journeys, seeking answer to prayer – for healing or comfort, strength in trying times and joy in shared times, and wisdom and love in all times: Turn our lives outward in ever-expanding senses of connection and love.

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 Pardoville over the past year; Catherine Blair, Antony DeJager, Jim Henry Smith, John Dawson, Elizabeth Donna LaMarsh, Dennis Dinga, Phyllis Payne, Glen (Ross) and Carol Pollard, Constance Coatsworth, Marian & Nelson Sykes, Al Moore, Alexandra Bennett, Neil Wellwood, Molly Cowen, Francisco Antonio Reyes, and JoAn Dale. 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: In worship, we find rest and renewal. But this is not where we stay. Let us go from this place, open to embracing love's beauty in the word, 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.**

Thank You:

- * On behalf of the Community that is connected with Pardoville Cemetery, thank you to the dedicated Board Members who ensure Pardoville is very well looked after.
- * Thank you to each of you who continue to support Pardoville Cemetery and its Board.
- * To The Chair of the Board; Mary Depuydt for her support and help in organizing this service.
- * Thank you to Kevin Drewery for reading our Story today.