

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

St. Andrew's 165th Anniversary Service – June 11th, 2023

Prelude: by Debi Guy

Welcome & Announcements:

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: We enter this worship fragrant with the scents of God's creation. Draw us closer to you, O God.

People: We enter worship this morning with the memory of scents of the past; the perfume our mother wore, or the aftershave of our dad. Draw us closer to you and those gone before us, O God.

Eric: We enter this worship with our minds filled with pictures of our lives. Draw us closer to you, O God.

People: We enter worship this morning thinking of those times we fondly remember of life at St. Andrew's United Church. Draw us closer to you and those memories, O God.

Eric: We enter this worship with concerns on our hearts and tensions in our bodies. Draw us closer to you, O God.

People: We enter this worship with hopes and dreams for the future. Draw us closer to you and our dreams, O God.

Eric: Come let us worship together with God on the Anniversary Sunday.

Opening Hymn: VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy..."

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth
and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity! **

Opening Prayer:

People: Ever-gracious God, you call people from near and far into the fellowship of our church, building upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, upon Jesus Christ, our companion and Lord, and upon all the saints who have gone before us.

We give you thanks for 165 years of church life, and especially for the ministries of St. Andrew's United Church – South Buxton.

We give you thanks for all in our midst today. Continue to watch over our congregation, we pray; disturb our complacency; fill it again and again with your Spirit; deepen our faith and our relationship with you, so that we might continue to be faithful co-workers with you— “that all the world might see” and praise you. In the name of Jesus Christ who is our Head and our Cornerstone. Amen.

Children's Story & Lord's Prayer:

Children's Hymn: VU 288 “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R **

Scripture: Matthew 9: 9 – 13, 18 - 26

Jesus Chooses Matthew: As Jesus was leaving, he saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting at the place for paying taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Matthew got up and went with him. Later, Jesus and his disciples were having dinner at Matthew's house. Many tax collectors and other sinners were also there. Some Pharisees asked Jesus' disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and other sinners?” Jesus heard them and answered, “Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what the

Scriptures mean when they say, 'Instead of offering sacrifices to me, I want you to be merciful to others.' I didn't come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners."

A Dying Girl and a Sick Woman: While Jesus was still speaking, an official came and knelt in front of him. The man said, "My daughter has just now died! Please come and place your hand on her. Then she will live again." Jesus and his disciples got up and went with the man. A woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and barely touched his clothes. She had said to herself, "If I can just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Jesus turned. He saw the woman and said, "Don't worry! You are now healed because of your faith." At that moment she was healed. When Jesus went into the home of the official and saw the musicians and the crowd of mourners, he said, "Get out of here! The little girl isn't dead. She is just asleep." Everyone started laughing at Jesus. But after the crowd had been sent out of the house, Jesus went to the girl's bedside. He took her by the hand and helped her up. News about this spread all over that part of the country.

Reflection: "This Community of Grace"

God's powerful, restoring, and grace-filled love provides a fresh start. Not only for Matthew in today's story, but also for the bleeding woman and the girl that had died. Each are offered new life grounded in community. Yet those who encounter Jesus experience new lives of wholeness as they believe and respond. Can we believe and respond that God is leading us into new life as St. Andrew's United Church? That our new life may be in community with another community of faith?

We as church goers believe the message that Jesus shares - is for us his followers. In today's story we hear Jesus say, "*I didn't come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners.*" We may have once been sinners and we have found the new life offered by Jesus in this faith community. Since 1858, St. Andrew's has been a meeting place for those folks of the Buxton area to gather and worship in the Name of Jesus Christ. St. Andrew's has invited all to come and worship as a community together. In the 8 years before and up to the building of this very church building, neighbours regardless of skin colour, social status or financial resources, came together for the common good of the community. We trust that we as today's congregation of St. Andrew's extend that same welcome to whomever wishes to worship with us.

Today's reading from Matthew reflects the situation facing the church members who were Matthew's first readers. Jewish and Christian communities remained related at that time, though in conflict. When disputes arose between synagogue and church, the church turned to Jesus' words for a response. Case in point is some Pharisees question the disciples about Jesus' choice of dining companions. Before they can answer, Jesus explains his mission to call out to those needing healing and wholeness.

Seemingly irrational hope flows through these stories. Tax collector Matthew would have little reason to hope for a life of purpose in God's realm. The religious leader had no rational reason to hope for the death of his daughter to be reversed. The woman whose illness had separated her from the community for over a decade had no reason to think that she would be able to get close to Jesus. But Matthew did reach out for the hope of a life of purpose. The religious leader reached out and asked Jesus if he could help. The bleeding woman reached out to touch the cloak of Jesus, trusting that she would be healed. In reaching out their lives are changed. They become part of a faithful community.

Through today's stories, we hear the good news of God's compassion that extends beyond human boundaries. A tax collector whose work funded the Roman occupation would have been considered a traitor among patriotic Jews. The disease suffered by the woman left her ritually unclean, separated from worship and community. Anyone who came into contact with her would share that separation. Young girls held little value in the society of that day. The girl's very death meant anyone who touched her would be unclean. Yet Jesus sits at the table with Matthew, honours the woman's touch and great faith, and takes the little girl by the hand to enjoy new life. Jesus has reached out and touched us here at St. Andrew's.

After 165 years of being the church in South Buxton, Jesus is asking us as his followers of St. Andrew's United Church to reach out into the future, and envision how we will be the church in these changing times. Jesus' words in today's story speak invitation. Jesus actions in today's story, restores those to new life in community. Matthew finds new life in the community of disciples. The woman is restored to wholeness and the possibility of returning to her community. The young girl is restored to her family and friends.

People with little reason to hope fill these stories in Matthew. Today's world is full of people with little reason to hope. Yet we here at St. Andrew's are full of hope. We celebrate hope each and every Sunday. We trust in the Hope of Jesus as we say our prayers each night. Our sacred scriptures are full of hope. We believe in the God of Hope, and the Son who gives people a fresh start and new life, and in the Holy Spirit that will not leave us as we venture into new community. We are the Oasis of Hope here in South Buxton – we have been for 165 years and will continue to be until God tells us otherwise.

Let us celebrate today what has been accomplished over the last 165 years. Let us resolve that we will journey into our future with the Hope of the Trinity with us. Who walked in here today and needed to hear the hope of Jesus the Christ? Who in

our community would love to be here today but cannot, because they need our prayers for healing and for hope for their future? Who in our community has faced death, and reach out to the Church for Hope for their future? Jesus offers Matthew, the woman and the girl new life, offering them a fresh start. The girl's father, himself a religious leader and the bleeding woman reach out in faith and hope, and new life is restored. When have these events happened at St. Andrew's?

Hope against hope. That's what the Church offers. The Church marks the lives of any who follow God. Consider on this Anniversary Sunday how you have been led by faith, and how you value what it means to be a community that acts in response to God's grace and kindness. How might you celebrate the fresh start you received through God's grace? We are this Community of Grace!

We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 332 "The Church's One..."

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,

on high may dwell with thee. **

Ministry of Music: "Leng" – Debi/Spencer

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: Thank You for all your gifts, each and every week. Gifts of time, talent, skills, prayers and money. All of these gifts added together, makes us the Church. Today as we celebrate the

Anniversary of St. Andrew's United Church, we feel so blessed. May we offer those blessings to others. We are 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: God, use our Anniversary offering, to offer hope and love to those in our world. Through these Anniversary gifts, may we be inspired to continue being the church in our community. Thank you for 165 years of ministry to the world. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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 686 "God of Grace, God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;

shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee. **

Benediction:

Eric: On this Anniversary Sunday, let us go as listening and responding people, as you call us to be the Church - offering your grace to all, 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...*

Closing Amen: VU 974 (2X)

Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen.

Ministry of Music: “Leng” – Debi/Spencer

Postlude: – Debi Guy

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
Marcus
Ingrid
Jerry**

**Larry
Kerigan
Ken**

**Natalie
Ruth
Dave
Marj
Sue
Evelyn**

**Richard and Evelyn
Elaine**

**Gary
Janet
Tracey**

**Abby
David
Cleveland Family**