

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

St. Andrew's 164th Anniversary – June 12th, 2022

Prelude: “You’ve Got A Friend” – Carole King – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to St. Andrew's as we celebrate St. Andrew's 164th Anniversary.

This Friday is the Anniversary Supper of Broasted Chicken and Strawberries Take Out. Tickets are \$25 each, and must be ordered today. Please call Alice at 519-689-4408 to book your ticket.

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

Thank you to our production crew; music by Christie Coatsworth, readings by Annette Skillings and the slides by Tracey Major. You make all the difference. Thank you!

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: Here, O God, we gather - at the crossroads of busyness and rest, of judgment and mercy, of conflict and peace, of wants and needs, and on our Church's Anniversary.

People: Here at this crossroads, we come to hear your wisdom, calling to us over the noise of the marketplace; over the hubbub of competing voices, competing desires, possibilities, and calamities, and the celebrations of our Church's Anniversary.

Eric: Here, O God, meet us.

People: Enable us to slow, to stop, to stand and hear your Wisdom speak to us again: of the beauty of your earth; of the gift that is each one gathered here; the wisdom and joy they bring to this day of celebration.

Eric: Here, O God, meet us today in our worship and celebrations of St. Andrew's 164th Anniversary.

Opening Prayer:

People: We delight in you, O God. We give thanks for Wisdom woven, at the beginning, brought forth from you, Creator God: before land was shaped, before the waters swirled and flowed. Wisdom stood beside you and before you, as you carved the mountains and bent the streams. She spoke then; she speaks still. May we listen for her on this special day for our church. May we open our ears and our hearts to her inspiration as we celebrate the wisdom shared in this church throughout the years. We delight in you, O God – and we give you thanks that you delight in us. Amen.

Hymn: VU 315 “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

1 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!

2 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.

3 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.

4 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!

Dedication of Sound System:

Eric: Sound is so precious. Sound is a gift from God. It is with sound that we can communicate and share with each other.

People: **We worship with sound; in our singing, in our praying and all the ways we worship.**

Eric: We hear the sound of words and music. We offer our words and music to worship with each other.

People: **We hear the scripture read in the sound of words.**

Eric: We share the message with the congregation using words and other sounds.

People: **Sometimes our ears do not catch every word.**

Eric: Sometimes our voices are weak and tired, or we are soft spoken.

People: **We thank God for sounds.**

Eric: Today we thank God that JoAn Dale made a commitment to share the sounds clearer and louder.

People: **Today we thank JoAn for her vision of making the sounds of worship easier to grasp.**

Eric: On this Anniversary Sunday, we dedicate this sound system to the Glory of God, in the use of making the sounds of worship available to everyone. Let us pray together:

People: **On this special day, O God we gather as your people to dedicate this sound system to your glory. We thank you for this gift JoAn made, which will enhance our worship; in words and in song and any other sounds we share. We give thanks in your name and will use this gift for your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Scripture: Proverb's 8: 1 – 4, 21 - 31 "Wisdom's Story" by Joy King

My name is Wisdom, and I have a story to tell.

Long ago, I felt called by God to speak. I used to go to the crossroads in town – the place where most of the people would gather. This seemed like the best place for people to hear what I had to say.

"Listen," I would say, "wise up!" "I have a story to tell. It's about how the world began. Let me tell you my story."

You see, I was there at the beginning of time. The very beginning. Back when God was creating the world. There were no oceans; there were no springs gushing from the earth; there were no mountains; even before there was dust on the earth. I was there.

Back at the very beginning, before God created anything else, God created me. I'm so glad God did that – it was such fun being there for the creation of the world. As God made mountains and rocks, rivers and oceans, fields and forests, animals and birds and fish, I was there. I got to be a part of it all.

Sometimes it was as if I were an artist, helping God do it all. We would laugh together at some of the things God made, like kangaroos and giraffes – God loves variety. Sometimes it was as if I were a small child, distracting God when things got a little too serious. Children bring such joy and wonder, reminding grownups to smile and laugh and play a little, and to notice things like small creatures and new flowers. When all the creating was done, God and I sat back, and gave each other a big smile. We were proud of all that had been accomplished. God has made a wonderful world, don't you think?

Message: “Anniversary Wisdom”

We know God to be wise, caring, creating, and loving – we see that also in today's story of wisdom, which is connected to God, commonly thought through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit and Wisdom are one of the Trinity. Today we are challenged to look for wisdom of God in the usual people, ways and places. We are also challenged to have our eyes, ears and hearts open to the unusual people, ways and places, that we see God's wisdom among us. At our Church's Anniversary is a great time to look back at wisdom shared, and to look towards the future believing God's wisdom will continue to be shared.

We can be so caught up in our every day doing, that we fail to celebrate simply being. We overlook the amazing world God has created for us. Pausing to simply let ourselves be, we can wonder at the joy God has infused in our world. On this Anniversary Sunday let us take a moment to celebrate God's presence with us and the joy that brings.

Proverbs 8 is one of the many creation stories in the Bible. The theme of the creation stories all establish that God is the creator and sustainer of all things. Even with different Creation stories, there is always the acknowledgment of God as Creator – that is what is important.

If we had the ability to sit down and talk to the folks who first built this church what story might they share with us? Would they share about how difficult it was to make the decision for all to build a church at these four corners? Would they share how difficult it was to raise the money to build this beautiful building? Be assured this building was beautiful when it was built in relationship to the homes of the early settlers. Would they share the story of how they just knew this is what God

wanted them to do, and they didn't worry about how - they just did it! What story might one share as the church was built? What story might another share about the same church being built? Would their stories be the same? Or might it seem to us these two storytellers are building different churches. That is possible, after all we are human.

Wisdom is one of those books filled with great advice on how to live, interspersed with teachings of Wisdom. We do see Wisdom as an aspect of God (often equating her with the Holy Spirit – generally referred to as feminine in the Hebrew) while others see her as an entity in relationship with God. Either way, she is always portrayed as feminine.

Wisdom is crying out at the city gates, or in the centre of the action in a town. Wisdom is calling the people to task and takes her message to the place where it will reach the most people. That is why we built this church where it is, as it quickly became the gathering spot for the wider community. Was that the expectation of those who built this church?

Wisdom through chapter 8 is a great sense of delight, even fun. The feminine aspect of God shown to us today, wants us to understand and appreciate God's pure delight in humankind and in the world God has created. Indeed, life comes to its fullness when we celebrate creation and celebrate our rich history of faith and connections to our community.

We are loved by God – the scriptures including today's from Wisdom, make this clear over and over again. God delights in all creation. Knowing just that fact, hopefully we can open our minds and hearts to experience God in a wide variety of ways. Can we imagine a sometimes playful God that created us! If you could, would you join Wisdom's eager dance of joy? What is Wisdom's voice saying to us in the church today, especially to us here at St. Andrew's as we celebrate our 164th Anniversary?

Today's reading from Proverbs 8, Wisdom says that God enjoyed the act of creation, and that Wisdom was present with God from the very beginning, helping and playing with God. Could Wisdom and God have been creating and playing as they helped our forefathers and foremothers build this very building? Take a moment and think about the possibilities. What value may you place on this building if you believed that God was there then, and here now? Building a church is a lot of work, yet work does have it times of fun and community. Imagine the

meals the women cooked up to feed the workers; all those pies they made and the fresh baked bread. Almost makes you want to be a part of this creation.

How are we as the church today, being called to create with play to be the church in the 21st century? How do we answer the call Wisdom gives us today, to care for all God's creation?

In the 21st century, we might forget that there is delight in the created world. We can be so focused on the ongoing environmental crisis or the political maneuverings that seek to minimize our lives that we forget the blessing that creation really is. Today we are reminded of the joy that creation brings to God.

Even as in our modern day society we are always trying to improve, update, or refine also everything to become more than it was – God says, “No.” Relish it as it is. Relish your human companions as they are. Celebrate the joy of what is. Celebrate these 164 years (and more) of faith that is celebrated in this building each and every Sunday. Celebrate that God created this place with joy and wisdom. We as today's faithful get to enjoy God's wonderful creation – in this Church Building and in this wonderful world.

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

Reflection Hymn: VU 642 “Be Thou My Vision”

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: The Holy Spirit leads us to be the Church, and to give to be the Church in our community. Let us give and be 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: Bless our offerings, O Holy One. Bless these gifts that we share: gifts of time, talent, and treasure. May they reflect our shared joy and hopes for this beautiful earth and its varied and gifted inhabitants. On this Anniversary Sunday, may our gifts reach out into the world to affirm the wonder and delight you feel in all of your creation. Amen.

Prayer Hymn Verse: VU 376 "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: God is here among us as we pray for our sisters and brothers all over the world. *(Pause.)*

People: God is here among us as we pray for those we know, who are suffering in heart, mind, body, or spirit. *(Pause.)*

Eric: God is here among us as we remember those who have suffered from climate disasters. *(Pause.)*

People: God is here among us as we pray for our leaders, that they may act wisely. *(Pause.)*

Eric: God is here among us as we pray for ourselves and our hearts' needs, that we too might seek wisdom and follow God's leading. *(Pause.)*

People: God is here among us. May we open ourselves to what Creator God may bring forth within us, among us, today, tomorrow, and in the days to come.

Eric: God is here among us, as we share the Lord's 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.*

Closing 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.

Blessing:

Eric: May you hear Wisdom's voice, on this special day as we celebrate St. Andrew's 164th Anniversary. May we understand God's delight in all things, and may we know we are known and loved by God, now and forever more.

VU 429: “May the Blessing of God...”

May the blessing of God be upon you.
May God's love light all your way.
May the grace of Christ enfold you
and peace around you stay.
May the Spirit of God dwell within you.
May you live in joy each day.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: “Follow Me” – John Denver – 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:	Tom	
	Louise	Louise' Granddaughter - Blake
	Betty	Ingrid
	Alison	Brenda
	Nancy	Lisa
	Sarah	Larry
	Brian	Jack
	Zoe	Becky
	Francine	
	Melissa	Karen
	Jenny	Michelle
	Gary	Margaret
	Gus (Sick kids)	Dolly
	Chris	Ukraine – Allied and Canadian Forces
	Glenna	Barry
	Ann	Joe
	Tracey	Lori