

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Father's Day Sunday – June 19th, 2022

Prelude: “Kum Ba Ya” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to St. Luke's as we celebrate Father's Day.

This Friday June 24th is St. Luke's Fish Fry Take Out, from 5 to 6 pm. Tickets are \$25. Available from Marjorie 676-5641.

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: O God, we wait, and our waiting is for you.

People: O God, we long, and our longing is for you.

Eric: O God, we yearn, and our yearning is for you.

People: And in silence, we listen for your Holy Spirit.

Eric: And in silence, we hear our names.

People: And in silence, we are found.

Eric: Come let us worship!

Opening Prayer:

People: Sacred space, holding all silence; silence, holding the whole word of God; word of God, holding all truth for the world; truth for the world, holding every hope of life; hope of life, holding every grace of God; the grace of God, holding every moment of heaven; moments of heaven, held in sacred space; sacred space, holding all silence; in this silence, God, we meet. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 651 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
 whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield,
 be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to thee,
 I will ever give to thee.

Scripture: 1 Kings 19: 1 – 4, 8 - 15 “Hearing a Silent Voice”

Elijah the prophet was well known for obeying God. And, as a prophet, he made it his job to tell others how God wanted them to live. Like other prophets, Elijah sometimes had to tell people in power that they had strayed away from doing what God wanted. That never made the prophets popular in the eyes of those in charge, and Elijah was no exception.

Queen Jezebel was very angry with what Elijah had been saying and vowed that she would not rest until she killed him. Elijah got word of this and ran away.

Elijah did not like being on the run, and said to God, “I might as well give up; I have no future.” I wonder if you have had days like that?

While he was lying there feeling sorry for himself, Elijah had a dream. He heard a voice say, “Get up and eat and drink; you have a long journey ahead of you.” When he awoke, he saw bread and a jar of fresh, cool water.

It didn’t take too much convincing for Elijah to eat the bread and drink the water because he was very hungry.

Elijah travelled for a long time – many days and nights – and he ended up at Mt. Horeb, a special mountain where the Hebrew people believed God lived. Elijah went into a cave to spend the night.

During the night, while he was asleep, Elijah felt God calling to him.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?” God asked.

“I’ve been doing just what I thought you wanted me to do,” Elijah said. “I have tried to be a good prophet. The people have done some terrible things, and I have challenged them and told them they needed to change their ways. But what do I get for it? No one will have anything to do with me – that is, except those who want to kill me.”

“Go stand on the mountain,” God said, and so Elijah did.

A huge wind came – a wind so great it sent rocks tumbling down the hill.

Elijah thought God might be in the wind, but Elijah did not find God in the wind.

After the wind, Elijah felt an earthquake. Elijah thought for sure God would be in the earthquake, but Elijah did not find God in the earthquake.

“God must be in the fire,” Elijah thought. But Elijah did not find God in the fire.

Then everything calmed down. There was not a sound. Elijah listened and heard absolute nothingness. And in the midst of that, Elijah heard God’s voice again.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?” God asked again.

“I’ve been doing just what I thought you wanted,” Elijah said, “but all I have gotten for it is people who want to kill me. I’m all alone.”

God didn’t answer Elijah directly. God simply said, “Go, Elijah. Continue on.”

Elijah was not sure what lay ahead of him, but somehow he knew that God would be with him and that somehow things would work out. So he got up and headed down the mountain.

Message: “God in the Silence”

Imagine, finding God in the silence. When storms rage around us, earthquakes shake the very ground we are standing on, and the fire roars beside us putting out heat and light – yet we find God in the silence. In that silence Elijah is nourished and strengthened for the journey ahead. Elijah knows he will not go alone.

Elijah has ticked off the Queen. Jezebel vows to find Elijah and kill him. Elijah hears about the Queen’s vows and flees for his life to get as far away as he can from Queen Jezebel’s anger. In his fleeing, Elijah questions God’s call – “How can I be your prophet? I’m on the run and no one cares for me. I might as well be dead”. God sets up Elijah a dream for him to “keep on, keeping on”. God provides nourishment which sustains Elijah. God speaks to Elijah in the depths of his aloneness (and his feeling sorry for himself). God speaks in the sound of sheer silence. There are challenges in being faithful and answering God’s call, as we hear in Elijah’s story today. Yet Elijah realizes that God cares and supports him in the low point of his life.

Have you ever had one of those days when you feel that you have had enough? It seems everything has gone wrong today. You burnt the toast this morning. The car won’t start. It rained and you left the window open. You stepped in a mud puddle and got your foot wet. Then you get home for supper and you find you have ran out of milk, and you need milk for supper. Where’s my bed?

Well, Elijah has had enough. In despair, Elijah prays to God that he may die. God’s sends an angel to feed Elijah twice, encouraging him to sleep and eat to be strengthened for the journey. Elijah travels 40 days and nights to Mount Horeb (which is known as Mount Sinai). This is the same mountain where God gave Israel the law and the covenant. Elijah returns to the place where Moses encountered God, and God is with Elijah on the journey.

God asks Elijah, “What are you doing here?” Elijah pours out his frustrations. “I’ve tried my best. I am the only one of your prophets left. Now they want to kill me.” In Elijah’s time of “deep down” questioning, God is present. As Elijah watches from the cave, there is great rock-splitting wind, an earthquake, and fire. But God is not in any of these. Elijah finds God’s presence and power in “a sound

of sheer silence” – translated in some Bibles as “a still, small voice.” Elijah covers his face in awe at this experience.

God asks the question again, “Elijah, what are you doing here?” Elijah replies in the same words, but this time we can imagine a tone of acceptance of the responsibility God has given him. “Go,” God says, “Return.” God tells Elijah to take up the work again. When Elijah was in despair, God pursued. God strengthened Elijah for the work God called him to do.

May we too realize that God cares for us and supports us in the low points of our lives. God is present in our times of despair, when we are ready to give up. God calls and sustains us in our ministry. We may need to find opportunities to listen to God in the silence.

We will have times when life overwhelms us, and we despair. Who might we reach out at those times? Do we call our father? What questions come to us when we are in such deep down moments? How might we reach out to God as our Father? How might we know like a Father, that God will nourish and sustain us? How might we allow those quiet moments in the presence of our Father? Whether it be our earthly Father or God as our Father? Who helps us to “keep on, keeping on?” If we go to our Father and share what going on in our lives, they can help us to prioritize and calm ourselves down and get back out there – after a big hug. In the love of our Father, we find truth, promise, and hope.

Life does and will have its up and downs. We have the opportunity to reach out to our Fathers, even in the silence, and in prayer, and our Fathers will help us to discern wisdom for the journey. We do live in a very fast-moving world with little peace at times. We can reach out and talk to our Father, and appreciate our Fathers on this Father’s Day. We are not alone. God and our fathers are always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 286 “If You Will Trust in God”

- 1 If you will trust in God to guide you,
and hope in God through all your ways,
God will give strength, whatever betide you,
and bear you through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that will not move.
- 2 God will embrace your pain and weeping,
your helpless anger and distress.

If you are in God's care and keeping,
in sorrow will God love you less?
For Christ, who took for you a cross,
will bring you safe through every loss.

- 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;
so do your own part faithfully,
and trust God's word; though undeserving,
you'll find God's promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in God indeed.

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: Caring God, may we offer not only our material gifts, but our whole selves to you, and to all those who need our support in the quest for justice. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. 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: Creating God, may all our words be filled with silence: a space broad enough to pray for the world's needs, and a place deep enough to meet you in it (*pause*).

People: We place a silence here for all conflict, where words can never heal, only the witness of peace-filled living, and the touch of love (*a moment of silence*).

Eric: We place a silence here for all hurt, where words can never repair, only the witness of grace-filled living, and the touch of love (*a moment of silence*).

People: We place a silence here for all injustice, where words can never break through, only the witness of truth-filled living, and the touch of love (*a moment of silence*).

Eric: We place a silence here for all victims, where words can never say sorry, only the witness of compassion-filled living, and the touch of love (*a moment of silence*).

People: We place a silence here for all people, where words are confusing and confused, and only the witness of patient living, and the touch of love, speaks *(a moment of silence)*.

Eric: Creating God, may all our words be filled with silence:

People: space broad enough to pray what the world needs, and a place deep enough to meet you in it.

Eric: We offer our prayers for our community...We share together 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 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Center

- 1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.
- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.
- 3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Blessing:

Eric: Go now in silence - listening for God in the world, 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: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” – 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
	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
	Lori	