

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Canada Day Sunday – June 28th, 2020

Prelude: “Simple Gifts” - Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to our Canada Day Service.

Happy Canada Day to all.

I am willing to come for an outside visit. 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 will call to set up a time to visit (but only if you are comfortable with an outside visit, depending on the heat, etc.), and if that works for you, we can visit.

I have been thinking about our Cemetery Remembrance Services and am planning the Pardoville Union Cemetery Service for next Sunday morning's service.

Great news this morning; on Friday Jessica (Shanks) and Stefan had a baby girl, Rylie at 3 lbs in Saskatoon SK. Also on Friday, Taylor and Bradley Shanks had a baby girl, Della at 8 lbs 12 oz. Congratulations to Great Grandmother Elaine – twice in one day, and to Great Grandmother Margaret and Grandmother Madeline. Grandpa Terry kept everything running smooth from above. Friday was Terry's one year Anniversary of his passing.

On a more somber note; Reverend Pat Pickle passed away on Thursday June 25th, after complications from heart surgery. Pat is an Associate Pastor at Glad Tidings Community Church in Blenheim, and the chaplain at the Copper terrace Long Term Care Home in Chatham. Pat has joined his wife, Ruth who passed away in 2016. Our thoughts and prayer are with you!

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 Jordan for sharing the Scripture this morning.

Remember our local Food Banks - as the first Sunday of the month is next Sunday. I will have the front doors of St. Andrew's open on Saturday July 4th, from 10 am to noon, for you to drop off your donations. We still have lots of food from the May 16 Miracle, so please consider Personal Hygiene products, Thank you.

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.

O Canada: VU 524

O Canada! Our home and native land,
True patriot love, in all thy sons command.
With glowing heart, 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.

Moment of Silence: *We will observe a moment of silence to remember those who have served in the past and are now serving in the presence of God. Three rings of the bell will mark the end of our moment (traditional call to "return to the station"). Today, the bell is rang by Firefighter Steve Walker. Today please remember those firefighters who have died since we last gathered. Eric will close with prayer.*

Welcome from South Raleigh Fire Station 16: Station 16 Chief Scott Russell

Call To Worship:

Eric: Welcome! In the name of God, welcome.
People: **God's love stretches wide, ready to embrace all with love.**
Eric: You who are thirsty for the presence of God, welcome.
People: **May your thirst be satisfied.**
Eric: You who long for a caring touch, welcome.
People: **May you know God's love through the care of this community.**
Eric: In the name of God, welcome to all;
People: **let us drink deeply of God's presence and share this grace with one another.**
Eric: Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer:

God of steadfast love, today remember Jesus' words: "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." We pray to welcome the outcast as we would welcome you, to do what you can to provide water to the stranger, and to trust always that you will be there. We pray to know that kindness is brave, but always worthwhile, and that where love is, there you are. Amen.

Hymn: VU 605 "Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold"

- 1 Jesus, teacher, brave and bold, let us serve you, young and old.
Let us faith-filled workers be, all around, your wisdom see.
Let us play and dance and sing, your goodness find in everything.
- 2 Jesus, friend, so strong and true, show us good, brave work to do.
Show us those who need a friend, all things broken help us mend.
Free our minds and stretch our care, teach us to serve you everywhere.

Scripture: Matthew 10: 40 - 42 – In Story Form

I'm a little nervous as I reach out to knock on the door of the house. My friend and I are in need of a roof over our heads tonight, somewhere off the streets away from bandits and other concerns of the night. Not that there's any reason for anyone to attack us, all we have are the clothes on our backs and the shoes on our feet but staying out is still risky. Anyway, we have chosen to inquire about shelter for the night here because, well...this house looks nice.

We can never be sure of how people will receive us. Most people are hospitable, it's one of the wonderful things about living in these parts. Strangers are almost always taken in and offered hospitality. But things are a bit different for us. We are Christians – followers of Jesus of Nazareth, and sometimes people are afraid of having us in their homes. We are considered renegades and rebels by the authorities. That's hard to accept when all we are doing is talking about the love and care of God to all who want to hear about it.

I step back from the door. I feel anxious and afraid, concerned about how we will manage if these people turn us away. I think back to the day when Jesus gathered us together and spoke about what was ahead of us if we chose to be his disciples.

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and the One who sent me,” he told us. “You are my prophets and whoever welcomes you and any righteous person will receive a heavenly reward. Anyone who gives the least of you a cup of cold water when you are thirsty and in need, will be welcome in God's realm. As you enter any house, reassure the people who offer you hospitality that God looks kindly on them.”

With a picture of Jesus in my mind and these words in my ears, I step up and start knocking.

Message: “Be Brave!” (Emblem of Chatham Kent Fire)

As Jordan shared our scripture story this morning, could you relate to the disciple who has to knock at the door of a stranger and ask if they could stay overnight? Would the stranger be hospitable to let his door knocker stay? He'd also have to feed him - and his friend, as Jesus had shipped them out two by two.

It would take bravery to go door to door knocking and to ask for an overnight stay. On this Canada Day we celebrate the bravery of this community for their actions and patience to “weather the storm” of the COVID virus.

Each Canada Day over the past many years we have gathered at the South Raleigh Fire Station 16, to celebrate Canada Day with neighbouring congregations, and with our volunteer firefighters. As we each have made many concessions during the pandemic, so have our firefighters as COVID affects them as first responders. Chief Scott hinted about how COVID has affected his department. Captain Paul Walker will share and demonstrate many of the practices and safety precautions the Firefighters prepare for.

(Captain Paul Walker)

Training is a big deal for our Volunteer Firefighters. We want the Firefighters to be well trained so when we have a fire at our house – they know exactly what to do. Practice, practice and even more practice. Today we have several videos and pictures of how the Firefighters practice each week, making them even more professional for when that emergency call comes in.

(Videos and pictures of: Checks of trucks, power packs, generators, “Jaw’s of Life”, Inventory, recording, Inside of Emergency Truck, Remote control sprayer on front of Tanker, Every air mask is tested, Dani on training, Paul on training, “Catch the Hydrant” < Chief Scott and Dani about Women Firefighters).

In today’s story, it is not comfortable to knock on a stranger’s door to ask whether they can put you up for a night, including feeding you. It takes a lot of guts to stand at that door and knock. You have to calm your fears and step out in faith, and with bravery to ask for a place to stay. Yet, we may be rewarded with a, “Yes, come on in.” Here’s a glass of cold water.

Our volunteer firefighters also will not be comfortable with heading out to a fire or emergency call. Like most emergencies, you head out with very little information, and the information you have may be incorrect. Within seconds after arriving on scene, the firefighters have to assess the situation and then work together as a team. It becomes like 10 people standing at that door to knock – it takes a lot of guts from every team member and all together at once. The bravery these men and women offer to our community is incredible. Yet they do it week after week, and whenever they get the call.

Training helps to calm the mind, because you know what needs to be done. Catching the hydrant in two minutes seems like a long time - when it’s your house burning. But after the hose has been dropped off the truck and wrapped around the hydrant, the truck can head off to the fire unloading the hose behind it. When the truck gets to the fire – it is all ready to go to work immediately. Training helps ten people think alike. Training helps to alleviate the fear. Training helps 10 people to be brave together. “I know they have my back”, Dani shared. “We are in this together”.

It may not be comfortable, but the firefighters do it anyway. They put on their brave face and head in – even if their knees are shaking. Together they are a TEAM, and there is no “I” in TEAM. They are not alone. They have each other. They have their training. They have their faith – faith in that they are ready and prepared for this. Their reward can be when someone offers them a cup of cold water, or a coffee and some donuts.

We are not alone. Whether we are door knocking, or fire fighting. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Offering:

Eric: In the wilderness, God provides. In daily living, God provides. In times of plenty, in times of want, God provides. Trusting in God, then, let us give without fear.

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:

You welcome us, O God, with abundant grace. Your welcome comes in community and forgiveness, in Creation's beauty and Love's joy. So, may we welcome others through our relationships, in our forgiving and accepting forgiveness, in the joy of Love's offering and receiving. Amen.

Firefighter's Prayer: *Station 16 - Captain Ken Wood*

When I am called to duty God, wherever flames may rage,
Give me the strength to save some life Whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child, Before it is too late,
Or save an older person from The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert, To hear the weakest shout,
Then quickly and efficiently To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling Lord, To give the best in me;
Halting all the fear and pain; Protecting Life and property.

And when that moment comes, dear Lord, When end of life draws near,
I trust to your eternal love All those whom I hold dear.

Pastoral Prayer:

Eric: God of all nations, we thank you for the life and history of our country, for its vast beauty, its wilderness, and wealth of forest, mine, and sea.

People: We praise you for its people, the people whose ancestors have been here for thousands of years, and those who have just arrived.

Eric: We thank you for the variety of our traditions and our cultures, the riches of our spiritual and religious heritage, the strength of our democratic institutions.

People: We pray for Canada, for our fellow Canadians and for our governments that working together we may face the future with confident hope and faith in your purpose for our world.

Eric: We pray for all who with vision, courage, and perseverance, speak prophetic and pastoral words that we may see all who are wounded and pushed aside, for all who move us to honour and respect all our sisters and brothers.

People: We pray for children and youth who will claim this day and tomorrow as their own and build in turn for their children and their children's children.

Eric: We pray for this day and for these critical times in which you call us to choose life over death, blessing over curse.

People: We pray for our Emergency Personnel, including our South Raleigh Firefighters, who head out into our community at the worst of times, and for the worst of circumstances.

Eric: We pray you keep them safe and healthy Lord, and that they are rewarded in the hard work they do.

People: We pray for all those on the Front Lines, risking their health and life each and every day.

Eric: We pray for those in our community who are dealing with unimaginable challenges; for those out of work, for those getting by with the use of drugs and alcohol, for those whose spouses act out because of their hurt.

People: Help each of them to reach out and talk about their situation, and be supported by our great services here in Canada, and in Chatham-Kent.

Eric: For this day, for this land, for all your goodness to us, we pray 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.*

Benediction:







Eric: Go in peace and love, listening to the voice of God amid the blur and noise of the world, offering nourishment to neighbour and stranger, and remembering the love of a humble but mighty God. Let us go with renewed hope and a braver faith, 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: “Eternal Father – Strong to Save” – by Christie Coatsworth

Thank You:

-  On behalf of the South Raleigh Community, thank you to the firefighters; for your dedication and your protection of the South Raleigh Community!
-  To Station 16 Chief, Scott Russell for his help and organizing to bring this service to reality.
-  To the Firefighter's spouses and families: for all the work they do behind the scenes, including the yearly BBQ.
-  To those who had the vision of a “neighbourhood” Fire Hall and made their vision a reality. Many of those served in the first Fire Hall on the Gardiner's farm (across the road). Many serve today in the presence of God. Every year, we gather here at Station 16 on the Canada Day Sunday to honour our firefighters. Those who are gone are honoured with the “Ring of the Bell”.
-  To everyone who helped in our service today.
-  Dani LaBonte and Jordan who helped with pictures and videos and making them accessible.