

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Trinity Sunday – June 4th, 2023

Prelude: by Christie Coatsworth

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 move our bodies in praise and wonder as we find our place in the community of Creation.

People: **We reach and stretch into your glory above the heavens.**

Eric: We see the work of your fingers in everything, O God.

People: **We see the sun and the moon.**

Eric: And we wonder what our place is in this cosmic community.

People: **You have crowned us with glory and honour. We feel the weight of this responsibility.**

Eric: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, help us to find our place today, as we gather to worship.

Opening Hymn: VU 226 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
 God of all, to you we raise
 this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, R

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R

For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R **

Opening Prayer:

People: Open to your creation, we come. Moving into your creativity, we come into the dance of Creation. Like a wave falls onto its shore, we come. Like a bird lands in its nest, we come. Like the first star of the night appears, we come. God, help us come with open hearts for worship this day. Amen.

Children's Story & Lord's Prayer:

Children's Hymn: VU 291 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings. R

The purpleheaded mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; R

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. R

The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall; R

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. R **

Scripture: Genesis 1: 1 – 2:4

Reflection: "The Community of Creation"

At the beginning of time, God expressed delight in Creation and declared all Creation "very good." On this Trinity Sunday we are reminded that there are many

ways that we celebrate how God is revealed in and through continuing relationships within Creation. God entrusts remarkable potential to all that is created. New beginnings emerge as the community of Creation lives into such promise.

It is believed that today's reading in Genesis took shape when the people of Judah lived in exile in Babylon. In response to their captors, who insisted that their rulers held all power, these exiles told a story about their God that insisted otherwise. Genesis did not originate as a scientific explanation of how all things came to be. Instead, it emerged as an assertion of the power of God, from whom all things came to be – and in whose hands the past and the future remained.

In Jewish tradition, retelling scripture's story enables listeners to enter that story as if it were ongoing. God's creative activity continues. Our fashioning in the image of God is more than a story of long ago. God has not finished with Creation or with us. We are empowered by our identity as made in the image of God and entrusted with a caring relationship with all Creation. We have the opportunity, maybe even the responsibility to co-create with God.

God blesses both creatures and humans. What is the meaning of "dominion" bestowed upon human beings? Many associate dominion exclusively with control. Dominion, however, has a different meaning when heard in the context of the "image of God." God's dominion does not exhibit itself in exploitation, but in compassion and responsible care. God entrusts dominion to us as a responsibility, not a licence to abuse.

This narrative of Creation concludes with God blessing the seventh day. We call this blessing Sabbath. Sabbath reminds us that work does not wholly or finally define life. It does not for God. It does not for us. Sabbath bears the gift of rest. Remembering Sabbath celebrates the grace of God.

Today's reading in Genesis forms a liturgy of creating word and faithful response that includes all that God created. Imagine this account coming to life. Use your senses to see, hear, smell, touch, and taste life bursting all around you. Proclaim that everything, in the words of God, is very good.

On this Trinity Sunday we also proclaim the relationships we share with God the Creator, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit are also good – very good. As the church moves forward into our newly created future, what hopes and purpose for our church may we see God has created or is creating? As we journey into the future, we will journey with the community of Creation. We are connected with all of creation, whether we like it or not. We get to co-create.

On this Trinity Sunday, as we look at the Community of Creation, how might our brothers and sisters in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta feel about the creation of destruction of their communities because of the forest fires? What kind of creation was God thinking?

Yet we know that forest fires allow the forests to rejuvenate. The fire clears out the dead wood and sickly trees and vegetation. Fires allow some seeds to open up and release new growth. In Northern Ontario in the next year, following a fire is a healthy crop of wild blueberries, as they excel with the fertilized soil and the ability to get full sunlight and rain. These wild blueberries are fabulously sweet and grow big. When you come back after the vegetation has grown up, even a few feet, the blueberries revert back to small and a more bitter berry. They no longer get the light and are crowded out by other plants for water. Nature can change quickly.

Yet as people who live in the early 21st century we are well aware of global warming. This awareness gives us the opportunity to remember the creation story and know that God continues to create regardless of the chaos we humans dream up. We as humanity are working on opportunities to co-create a different story line with a different outcome. Being grounded in our creation story helps us feel connected to nature and that it is our role and responsibility to make creation good!

In today's story, there is a continuing motion of God creating things: "And God said, 'Let there be...'" However, there is a transition when God creates humans. "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind...'" This curious "us" can have the reader wondering who is with God? John tells us that Jesus and the Holy Spirit was with God from the very beginning. Is it the Holy Trinity as God?

Creation is good, including humanity. "God saw that it was good". How can we say to ourselves or to another human, "We are not good". How can we say, "Creation only has value in what we can harvest and take from creation"?

On this Trinity Sunday, we consider Creation and Trinity's relationship with and within Creation. Genesis tells us that in the beginning - the goodness of all of creation is repeatedly declared. The orderliness and goodness of all creation may be difficult for us to grasp onto, especially when we see and face chaotic circumstances. Tragedies and natural disasters challenge any of us as humans, even when we know, "It is all good".

Trinity Sunday is the bridge between Pentecost Sunday and the season after Pentecost that follows. The transition is understandable, for the theme of Trinity

invites us to explore the various ways we experience God's activity among us as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. But notice the first of those affirmations: God as Creator. To take this naming of God seriously is to affirm that encounters with God can never be divorced from Creation. The first story of our "beginnings" (the literal meaning of Genesis in Hebrew) asserts time and time again the goodness at the heart of Creation. We are to celebrate the goodness in Creation. We are to co-create the goodness in Creation.

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

Reflection Hymn: VU 229 "God of the Sparrow"

God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home **

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: Thank You for all your gifts. Your gifts of time, talent, skills, prayers and money. All of these gifts added together, makes us the Church. We as givers are so blessed we can give. May those who receive - also know they are blessed. Thank you for being 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: In the movement of waves, the beauty of the creatures, the starkness of the sky, and the beating of our hearts, you have given us so many gifts. May this small token be a gift that can be used to better the creation around us. This we pray. Amen.

Chorus to Prayer: MV 121 "Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Pastoral Prayer:

Closing Hymn: B 453 Out of Deep, Unordered Water”

Out of deep, unordered water
God created land and life;
world of bird and beast, and later,
twosome people, husband, wife.
*There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.*

Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road. R

Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before. RCome! **

Benediction:

Eric: Children of God, our Creator; go with the blessing that everything is in order, now and forever more.

Closing Hymn: VU 884 “You Shall Go Out With Joy”

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

Amen, Amen, Amen. *(5 Part Amen) X2*

Postlude: – 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:

**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**