

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Third Sunday of Lent – March 7th, 2021

Pre Service Announcements:

On Friday morning, many of us in the community watched the World Day of Prayer Service online. The Service is now on our website at southbuxton.ca. If you wish to make a donation towards the work of the World Day of Prayer, please go to WICC.org and make an online donation directly. Thank you.

Audrey Dupuis passed away on Tuesday, and her service is also online at southbuxton.ca

The 2021 Ridgetown Chaplain's Gala will be virtual - on March 26th at 7 pm. If you are interested in watching the gala – go to Ridgetownchaplaincy.ca to register. Thank you for your support of our many community events.

Prelude: “Praise Be To God” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning!

Today is the Third of Lent.

St. Luke's is hosting a Yellow Perch Fish Fry Take Out on Wednesday March 17th – St. Patrick's Day. The cost will be \$20 for a complete take out with ½ lb Lake Erie Yellow Perch.

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at southbuxton.ca, and talbotstreet.ca

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call To Worship:

Eric: The heavens are telling the glory of God,

People: we gather to proclaim God's handiwork.

Eric: God's laws are perfect.

People: God's decrees are sure.

Eric: God's precepts are right.

People: God's commandments are clear.

Eric: God's ordinances are true.

People: God's awesomeness is pure.

Eric: Let us gather to worship God.

Opening Prayer: (based on Psalm 18: 14)

As we gather for worship this morning, may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, be acceptable to you, Our God, rock and redeemer. Amen.

Scripture: Exodus 20: 1 - 17 by Brian and Kathy Authier

The Ten Commandments:

God said to the people of Israel:

I am the Lord your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves.

Do not worship any god except me.

Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth.

Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the Lord your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations.

But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.

Do not misuse my name. I am the Lord your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.

Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me.

You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God.

No one is to work on that day—not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns.

In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested.

That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.

Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.

Do not murder.

Be faithful in marriage.

Do not steal.

Do not tell lies about others.

Do not want anything that belongs to someone else.

Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.

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

- 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!

- 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!

Message: "Faithfully Living Together"

Throughout Lent this year, we are reminded of God's promises to us as Children of God. Today we hear how we have been given guidelines of how we can be in

community together. In following God's loving laws, we can praise God more faithfully and live more justly with each other in community. We will be more faithful disciples living in a deep relationship with God. This is what Lent is about – preparing us for a deeper relationship with God. In these Lenten scriptures, God promises to be faithful and invites us humans to respond in faith.

The community who Moses gives the Ten Commandments, were once enslaved people who are now wandering in the wilderness. These Ten Commandments are so important to the Israelites that Moses names these ten commandments again in Deuteronomy. The God of the Israelite people enslaved was the Egyptian slave driver. The Israelites were not free and had to work 7 days a week of long days of hard work. Moses shares that their God is the one and only God and here is how you worship God. When you come from slavery you have no idea how to live on your own.

In the Ten Commandments, God tells the Israelites about the Sabbath. That after 6 days of work you take a day of rest. Rest is so important to human life and our sanity. Now no longer enslaved, the Sabbath offered rest for the workers.

The Israelites have always been told what to do. There may be a struggling for dominance over their fellow men from neighbours and even family members. The Israelites do not know how to live in a free loving community. The Ten Commandments help them to live together caring for each other in love, and working together to ensure justice for one and all. After all, they are God's Chosen People.

For us of the 21st century we might find this hard to imagine, but we have been schooled and raised in a society that cares for one another, with our roots going back in our Christian faith all the way back to the Ten Commandments. This Season of Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on what it means to live faithfully together. God calls us to respond in faith in our daily lives, asking us; "How shall we live?"

Today we may consider commitments we have made to change how we live. What prompted that commitment for change? Think back to your New Year's resolution. What promises did you make to yourself that would change how you live? Other than our New Year's resolutions, Lent is also a time when people make commitments: to give something up or take something on. What Lenten commitments are you considering this year?

We have just recognized Black History Month in February. One of the reasons we recognize our Black brothers and sisters is because of how we as white humans treated them in slavery in the 1800's, and maybe even how we still treat them today. If a white person protected a Black Person in the 1800's - it was against the law. As a result, many faithful and white people were tortured or killed. In some contexts, demonstrations or protests are also against the law – demanding punishment for those who tried to change the laws of the day.

During times of enslavement of Black peoples in North America, even peaceful demonstrations or sit-ins that challenged racial inequality and segregation were against the law and could result in arrest and imprisonment. Some churches and church leaders were among those involved in protests.

When looking back at the great injustices of our time, we might wonder, did the people involved realize that they were on the “wrong side” of history? More importantly, we might wonder, are we on the right side now? Hindsight makes for an unfair critique of the past. It's hard without hindsight to distinguish between the law and rule of the “powers that be” and the law and rule of the power of love (aka The Ten Commandments). The path of following Jesus can be tremendously hard. Yet we continue our journey through Lent, remembering God's promises to our faithful ancestors. Because we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: VU 686 “God of Grace, God of Glory”

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

- 4 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.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: As we hear the Ten Commandments that help us in our lives - let us give in Love.

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:

Gracious God, bless these, our gifts. May they be a beacon of light. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: We thank you, God, for you created stories that spark the imagination, laws that revive our souls,

People: commandments that enlighten our hearts, and traditions that make us hunger and thirst for justice.

Eric: We thank you for the miracles in our daily lives that renew our spirits and remind us of your steadfast goodness: *(silence)*

People: We thank you for Jesus of Nazareth, who loved you, your dream, and all your people fiercely. *(silence)*

Eric: As Jesus wept for his friends, may we also weep with those who cry out in grief for those we name to you silently now: *(silence)*

People: As Jesus protested the abuse of your laws, may we also question practices, customs and traditions that are not in line with your teachings and covenant. *(silence)*

Eric: We thank you for this Lenten journey, may we never forget why we journey and what we are journeying towards, as we pray Jesus' words...

*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.*

Blessing:

Eric: Go into the world ready to be kind when others are unkind, and to be passionate when others are complacent. May the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the abiding friendship of the Holy Spirit go with you, now and forever more.

Postlude: “Put Your Hand” – 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:	Karen	Ona	Earl
	Jasmine	Sharon -	COVID deaths
	Tom	Stroke	Barry/ Marsha
	Randy	June	Dupuis Family
	George	Melonie	– passing of Audrey
	Cindy & Connie	Susan	
Special:	Richard	Zoe	
	Cleata	Jerri	
	Hillie	Willie & Gisele	