

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Mother's Day Sunday – May 14th, 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: Like our mothers, the Holy Spirit dances light into our lives.

People: When we are cold, they bring us warmth;

Eric: When we are afraid, they bring us comfort;

People: When we are lost, they brighten the path;

Eric: When we are unsure, they mark the way;

People: When we are in need, they come into our presence.

Eric: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Opening Hymn: VU 395 “Come In, Come In and Sit Down

*Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.*

You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family. R

God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family. R

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family. R

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.

So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family. R. **

Opening Prayer:

People: We come together, O God, lifted in song to hear our voices harmonize with others, and to tune our hearts to love. We remember years ago standing beside our mothers and hearing their voice.

We come to find welcome and affirmation, to be seen and heard and become aware of the warmth, the breath, the life we share. We remember the times our mothers helped us to feel welcomed.

The spirit of Christ abides in the shared space between us. May we inhale deeply of this sacred presence. We remember our mothers today, wherever they may be, as we believe the Holy Spirit brings us together as one. Amen.

Children's Story & Lord's Prayer:

Children's Hymn: VU 217 "All Creatures of Our God..."

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
 hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
 sing praises, sing praises,
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
 sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
 sing praises, sing praises,
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part:
 sing praises, hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and yield up all your care:

sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! **

Scripture: John 14: 15 - 21

Jesus said to his disciples: If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you. I won't leave you like orphans. I will come back to you. In a little while the people of this world won't be able to see me, but you will see me. And because I live, you will live. Then you will know I am one with the Father. You will know you are one with me, and I am one with you. If you love me, you will do what I have said, and my Father will love you. I will also love you and show you what I am like.

Reflection: “The Love and Faith of our Mothers”

Today's scripture comes from Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples from the upper room at the Last Supper. There is a tenderness in these words, as Jesus shares great information that will help to sustain the disciples after Jesus is gone. Do the disciples really know what coming?

Jesus explains the indwelling of God by introducing the concept of God's Spirit. This Sunday being Mother's Day, I'd like to share the concept of the Holy Spirit being similar to our own mothers.

First of all how many times did you mom share her love for you; whether in words, in action or in thought? Like Jesus, I am sure many times as kids our mothers tried to explain something to us that we did not understand. Maybe it was the death of your grandparent. If we are fortunate enough to be with our mom, when they talk about their own death journey, we may hear many of the same words. Again we may not really understand the journey they are going through or will go through, but we hear those words that will carry us after they are gone.

I have shared stories about both of my grandmothers and how they shared conversations with me days before they left this world, into the next. In both cases

there were no reason to believe that within the week they would be gone. Each incident happened about 16 years apart, but strangely were similar incidents. In both cases, I found comfort and encouragement to help grieve their deaths.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to be with us and help us by encouragement and to comfort us in our losses or our scary journeys. As a minister, I get called in to the hospital or hospice to be with the family when their loved one is passing. What do you say? What do you do? How can anyone be comfortable in that situation? On the way to the room, I offer a prayer for the Holy Spirit to be with us, and then I try to follow the prompts I feel come from someone other than myself.

Sometimes I am prompted to say something. Sometimes I am prompted to stay quiet. Sometimes I am prompted to offer a hug, or hold a hand. Hopefully in my very presence of being there, they feel the Holy Spirit with us, helping, comforting and encouraging us to take the next step. Maybe they may feel their mom is with them holding them, and comforting them.

The Holy Spirit I believe is a gift from God. Jesus tells us in John that God will give us the Holy Spirit, *“Who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true.”* What a relief to know we do not need to make all of life’s decisions alone.

Jesus goes on to say, *“The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don’t see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.”* Isn’t this so true? How many times have you talked to others who cannot understand something – yet as they are telling you, you are thinking, “This is the Holy Spirit”. Maybe you even say what you are thinking and they fluff it off. But I have experienced the Holy Spirit in my very presence some many times in my life that it’s like the number of stars in the sky. I know the Holy Spirit, and I trust you do too, or you likely would not have come to church today.

If we have any life image of the Holy Spirit - for me it is like my mom. Thanks to God, my mom will be 95 in two weeks, and she is doing very well. With the help of the Holy Spirit, my mom has shared everything I need to know about her final journey. Seven years ago together we went to the local Funeral Home and made all the arrangements and paid for the funeral. Mom has told me many times, that if one of our family is away on a trip or vacation, “Just wait until they get back. I’m already home.”

The Holy Spirit will be like our mom to us. Jesus says, *“I won’t leave you like orphans.”* What great words of comfort. Jesus also reminds us that we will find him

in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Do we find the presence of our mother in the Holy Spirit? Yes, I think we do. What a great gift to receive - feeling your mom is still there comforting you and walking with you on your journey. Maybe that is why some folks as they near their death start speaking to their moms. Is that coincidental or is that the presence of the Holy Spirit is bringing their mom to them to take them home. What great words of comfort and for us to know we are not alone in life's journey.

With the presence of the Holy Spirit – a wonderful gift from God - We are never alone. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 236 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore. **

Invitation to Communion:

Eric: What kind of God is this who is seen and known in the breaking of bread?

People: **What kind of God might it be who journeys deep within shared suffering into joy?**

Eric: A God of embodied love.

People: **A God of abiding companionship on life's foggy and winding roads.**

(Pause for a moment of reflection)

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: As we celebrate Christ's resurrection, we also celebrate that as we share Christ's Resurrection, we also share the ministry of Jesus, helping the poor, visiting the lonely, healing the sick and caring for all of creation. Let us give, according to our faith.

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: God, whose children we are; receive these gifts we offer. May they help bring others closer to you, and experience and appreciate your presence in their lives. 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:

Remembering Jesus:

Eric: Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace,

People: remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again.

Eric: Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering the Community:

Eric: Aware that our eyes are often blind to human need,

People: we call to mind the One who takes bread, gives thanks and generously shares for all the world;

Eric: a body broken, a life poured out

People: with the living hope of food, water, medicine, justice, and peace for all.

(Break the bread and pour the cup.)

Eric: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

As we partake the bread together:

Eric: The body of Christ,
People: the bread of life.

As we partake the drink together:

Eric: The lifeblood of Christ,
People: the cup of blessing.

Prayer After Communion:

Open our eyes. Open our hands. Free our hearts to see and respect your presence in all and through all. We will respond with gratitude, joy, and grace. We will give our lives to the promise of Love always rising up in our midst. May it fully be so. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 637 “Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me”

Jesus, Saviour, pilot me
over life's tempestuous sea;
 unknown waves before me roll,
 hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
thou canst hush the ocean wild;
 boisterous waves obey thy will
 when thou biddest them 'Be still.'

Wondrous sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar
 'twixt me and the peaceful land,
 still supported by thy hand,
may I hear thee say to me,
'Fear not, I will pilot thee. **

Benediction:

Eric: God sends us out into the world. We do not go alone. We go with God, blessed and filled with the promise of life, now and forever more!

Closing Chorus: 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)*

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

Dave

Marj

Sue

Evelyn

Richard and Evelyn

Elaine

Gary

Janet

Tracey

Abby

David