

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Trinity Sunday – May 30th, 2021

Prelude: “Mendelssohn Hunter’s Song” – Christie Coatsworth

Upcoming June Services:

June 6th – United Church’s 96th Anniversary

June 13th – St. Andrew’s 163rd Anniversary Service

June 20th – Father’s Day & Shank’s Cemetery Service

June 27th – Canada Day Service with South Raleigh Firefighters

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome to Talbot Street for today’s Service, celebrating “Trinity Sunday”.

A reminder of the Wheatley Food Bank hosting their Drive-Thru Drop Off this upcoming Saturday June 5th from 9 am to 3 pm. Talbot Street is welcome to drop off donations from 9 am to noon here at the church.

For our first of the month Food Bank Donation will also be June 5th. St. Andrew’s front door will be open for drop-offs from 10 am to noon - on Saturday June 5th. Thank you for your support of our local Food Banks.

St. Andrew’s is hosting their Strawberry Social with Broasted Chicken on Friday June 18th. Tickets are \$25 and available from Alice at 519-689-4408. Pick up will be at the front door of St. Andrew’s from 5 to 6:30 pm. Advance tickets only.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - 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: From the distant galaxies to the invisible atom, from the highest of mountains to the depths of the sea, you, O God, created it all. Thank you, Creator God.

People: **As a baby in a manger born, a curious teenager, a courageous prophet, a wise teacher, and faithful friend, you, O God, have saved us all. Thank you, Redeeming God.**

Eric: For the inspiration of the scriptures, the whisper of creativity, and the empowerment of gifts, thank you, O Sustaining God.

People: **In your unity, diversity, divinity and mystery, we praise you, O Triune God.**

Eric: Come, let us worship.

Opening Hymn: “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty” – Video from Riverside Church, New York City.

Opening Prayer:

Living God, you have led us to this place to be transformed by your love. Let us open ourselves through the power of your Spirit that our hearts and our lives may be transformed into the image of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 “God Calls Isaiah” - by

It’s a quiet day in the temple. I sit quietly, and breathe deeply, allowing the smell of the incense to fill my lungs. The setting sun streams in through a window, reflecting the gold of the mosaics. Music floats in from somewhere, and the shadows of carved angels dance on the walls in the candlelight. My old friend, Isaiah, sits next to me and suddenly speaks in the silence.

“This is just like the night God called me to be a prophet,” he says.

I remember when Isaiah first told me he was a prophet, a special messenger for God. God sent him many dreams and visions, and he used them to help our leaders and our nation to live in God’s way. But Isaiah hasn’t told me this story before. I look into his wise and weathered face, waiting for him to continue. His eyes have a faraway look as he begins his story.

“I remember it so clearly,” he said. “It was the same year that King Uzziah died. I was in the temple, and it seemed like a dream, but I wasn’t sleeping. I had a vision of God! God was sitting high above me on a throne, like a ruler, and the fabric of God’s robes filled the temple. All around there were winged creatures; the large, fiery ones called seraphs had six wings. They used one set of wings to fly, and with the others, they covered their faces and feet. I heard them sing to one another ‘Holy, holy, holy is God; the whole earth is full of God’s goodness and beauty.’ The sound of their voices was so magnificent it made the whole temple shake and the sanctuary filled with smoke.”

Isaiah looks at me and chuckles, “I have to admit, as amazing and exciting as it was, it was also quite scary. I was worried, very worried. I remembered the things I had done and the things I had not done. I knew I wasn’t good, honest, or holy enough to see God with my own eyes. I cried out, ‘Oh, no! I am doomed! I am a foul-mouthed sinner from a whole sinful and foul-mouthed family, but I have looked upon God!’ I realized none of us is perfect, so I called out to God, ‘I am sorry!’

“I trembled in fear, and, in my vision, I saw one of the seraphs fly down, take a piece of burning coal from the altar and fly toward me. I squeezed my eyes closed, prepared for the worst. Then, I felt something touch my lips. It was like a cleansing heat. It was God’s forgiving love.

“I slowly opened my eyes, and deep down and all around I heard God ask, ‘Whom shall I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go for us?’ I knew God was speaking to me, so I shouted out that I would do it. ‘Here I am, God; send me!’”

Isaiah’s voice echoes around the temple, and I realize I’ve been holding my breath. I let out a deep sigh and stare at my friend. I understand deep down why he shared his story with me. None of us is perfect, but God loves us and calls us every day to be our best selves. “Here I am, God,” I whisper in the darkness. “Send me!”

Scripture Hymn: VU 509 “I, The Lord of Sea and Sky”

- 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

- 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

- 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

Message: "Holy Trinity"

On this Sunday, the church invites us to celebrate our most foundational doctrine; the Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – Three in One. We believe that God is three persons in one, and as the Trinity, works together to call, equip, and send out God's people. For us to be effective in leading, we must trust and rely upon both the mystery and the power of God.

Isaiah 6 starts out with Isaiah's call story. Isaiah does not feel competent enough to be a leader. We are told that all his fears of what he had done and what he had not done had flashed through his mind. Isaiah realized at that moment he was not perfect. "I knew I wasn't good, honest or holy enough to see God with my own eyes", Isaiah shares with us. Are you thinking like I, "Who is good enough"?

Isaiah feels the uncertainty of leadership, yet Isaiah feels that he is being called. This excellent example of being called and feeling inadequate echoes every call story throughout the church's history. For several Sundays each year, we concentrate our liturgy and worship on call stories. The church has historically done this throughout the generations. Why? Because like Isaiah, and so many of the other prophets, and even many of us - we initially resist our call.

Isaiah starts with a vision. Was it a dream? Isaiah says it was like a dream. As Isaiah shares his dream we see all kinds of imagery that remotely compares to the best Hollywood Science Fiction graphic artist that won many Academy Awards. Isaiah shares, "God was sitting high above on a throne, like a ruler, and the fabric of God's robes filled the temple." Isaiah is telling us that God's presence filled the whole temple - God was everywhere!

The vision goes on. "All around there where winged creatures with six wings – one set to fly, the others to cover their faces and feet", Isaiah tells us. Does that mean to see God's presence was even too powerful for these heavenly creatures that they needed to cover their face? What about their feet? Why might their feet need to be covered?

Isaiah does not stop at the imagery that can be seen, but adds the senses of smell and hearing. "The sound of their voices was so magnificent it made the whole temple shake and the sanctuary filled with smoke". Can you remember the times on a Sunday morning when the organist turned up the organ and played a tune that shook the walls of the sanctuary? While playing those little hairs on the back of your neck stood up and you felt shivers going up and down your spine. You may have noticed yourself shaking – trembling? When the sound stopped, you sat in the silence trying to regain your composure? Has that ever happened to you?

Even in all these unsurpassed sights, sounds and smells Isaiah has ever experienced, Isaiah recognizes his unworthiness. Isaiah cries out, "I am doomed! I am a sinner, but I have looked upon God". "I trembled in fear. I then saw one of the winged creatures fly down, take a piece of burning coal, and touched my lips. It was like a cleansing heat. It was God forgiving love", Isaiah shares.

God hears Isaiah's words, and offers healing and holiness where Isaiah didn't think it could exist. It's not about us! It's about God. God who is so big and powerful, yet we as individual humans are not too small to be deemed unworthy of God's attention and love. It's about God – the Three in One.

The whole idea of the Trinity is hard for us humans to grasp. Every once and a while we think we understand the Trinity until we start to explain it - words just do not work. Isaiah shares wonderful words that build an incredible picture of God, yet for Isaiah it's not good enough. For us we are astounded at Isaiah's vision. Once you have been in the presence of God, nothing else matters.

I was talking to a person the other day who was sharing her journey into death. She had arrived at "heaven" (her words), and she meet her dad and mom. Her dad told her to "go back home". She was slowly swept backwards and then faster through the blinding light. Three days later she woke up in her hospital bed – finding out she had a heart attack during her day surgery operation, while under the anesthetic. Her heart had stopped on the operating table. She was dead for several minutes before they could get her back. She remembers nothing after they put her to sleep before the operation, yet she vividly remembers her journey. That vision has changed her life and how she lives today.

Isaiah slowly opens his eyes and hears God ask, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah said, "I knew God was speaking to me. So I shouted - Here I am. Send me!"

None of us is perfect, but God loves us and calls us every day to be our best selves. "Here I am, God," we whisper, "Send me!" It is about us and God, because together the world is our mission field. The God who calls you, may be God the Father and the Creator, or maybe God in Jesus the Christ, or maybe God the Holy Spirit. With God - the Three in One! With God – the Trinity! We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 506 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

- 3 Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee; take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
- 4 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 5 Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We are chosen by the Triune God. Let us give in love, to enable our churches and us, to reach out and choose others.

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: Triune God, you model for us what it means to be a community in your self-giving and sacrificial nature. As we bring our offerings before you, we pray that you would use them for your purposes that your glory would be shown in every area of our world. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Out of the chaos at creation you brought order. When creatures had been formed, you ordained humanity as the caretakers of what you had made. We lift before you those places around our world where there are wildfires, famines, deforestation, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, intense heat, and rampant disease.

People: God of creation, bring healing and restoration to your world. May we be faithful in our task to care for our world. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eric: You told us that we would see you in the faces of the poor and marginalized, and so, we lift before you those who are struggling in our society and our church.

People: We pray for those who do not have enough to eat, those who are without shelter, and those struggling with an illness or who are facing death.

Eric: Incarnate God, help us work with you to bring comfort, work for justice, and provide for the needs of those around us. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People: You have called your church, all those of every colour, nation, tribe, and race who have committed to following in the way of Christ and serving your Kingdom.

Eric: We lift before you the churches facing challenges, those who have become distracted from their mission, those who are facing internal divisions, and those who are struggling to make ends meet.

People: **Send upon all communities of faith, including ours, a fresh flame of your Spirit so that we may proclaim your good news and embody your love in the world.**

Eric: Empowering God, help us to be outposts of your realm, a sign and example of your saving light to all those who wander in darkness.

People: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Eric: As we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us...

*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: As we leave this space, may we know we do not work alone; God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is always with us, now and forever more.

Postlude: "Crieg: March of the Dwarfs" – 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	Special:	Len	Leone
	Jasmine		Susan	Francine
	Tom		Zoe	Melissa
	George		Becky	
	Cindy & Connie		Earl	
	Lynn		Barry/ Marsha	
	Jan		Glen	
	Allan		Billy	

St. Andrew's United Church
South Buxton



&



Broasted Chicken,
Strawberry Social
Take Out Only

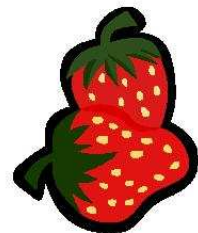
Friday, June 18th, 2021

Pickup at St. Andrew's Front Door from 5 to 6:30 pm

Advanced Tickets only - \$ 25!



Call: Alice 689-4408
Gail 689-7767
Eric 689-7555



Take out Meals are all identical: 3 Pieces Broasted Chicken, potato, coleslaw, brown beans and bun. Dessert is Strawberries and cake. All meals are individually wrapped and delivered to your car. But you must order to be on the list!