

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Mother's Day and Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 8th, 2022

Prelude: ““M.O.T.H.E.R (1915)” - by Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to Talbot Street today as we celebrate Mother's Day and the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

We are celebrating Communion today, and you are welcome to grab a cracker and some juice, and join us.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites – Talbotstreet.ca and Southbuxton.ca

Thank you to our production crew; music by Christie Coatsworth, readings by Annette Skillings and the slides by Tracey Major. You make all the difference. Thank you!

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: Come, let us worship God,

People: who is deserving of praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and strength.

Eric: On this Mother's Day - come, and worship God.

Opening Prayer:

People: O God, shepherd of us all, you remind us of our mothers, as we give thanks for protecting us, guiding us, feeding us, loving us. Be with us even now. Receive our worship, our praise, and our concerns. In this time of worship, may we rest our hopes in you that we may be led to open our hearts to the blessings of word, song, and sacrament. May you bless all mothers; those among us and those in your very presence. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

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

- 1 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.
- 2 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.

3 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.

Scripture: Acts 9: 36 - 43 “Tabitha” by Margaret Dodman

In the town of Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha, who was also known as Dorcas, the Greek translation of Tabitha. She went by both names depending on where she was and what she was doing. The Roman Empire spoke Greek. This was the language of power and domination. The indigenous language was Aramaic.

Tabitha/Dorcas was a generous person, sharing her resources with those who had little. She was well known and dedicated to helping others, especially widows. She became ill and died. Many people were grieving this loss. It was known that Peter was in the nearby town of Lydda. The disciples sent two men over to bring Peter to them. “Please come without delay.” Peter got up and went.

They took Peter to the room where Tabitha/Dorcas lay. All the widows stood crying, clutching the tunics Dorcas had made for them. She was known as Dorcas to the poor widows she loved. Peter sent the women outside and then knelt and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.”

Tabitha opened her eyes. Seeing Peter, Tabitha sat up. Peter took Tabitha’s hand and helped her rise. Then he called the members of the congregation and the widows and showed her to be alive.

As the news became known throughout Joppa, people’s hearts were moved and they believed in Jesus. Peter remained in Joppa for some time, staying as a guest of Simon, the Tanner.

Message: “Life-Giving Acts”

Tabitha sounds like many of our mothers. They have been a big part of our church and the wider community, including the United Church Women, the Women’s Institute, as well as in other community leadership roles. Our mothers like Tabitha gave Life-giving acts to many people. First of all our mothers gave life to us. Our mothers kept us alive and healthy with breast milk, the cooked and cleaned to keep us safe from our environments. Mothers helped us with homework and talked us through those difficult times we have as children; maybe bulling, or the loss of a dear friend. She comforted us when our lives for us was going astray.

Mothers also are a big part of the wider community; reaching out to help those with little food, sending meals to the neighbourhood family who had suffered a loss, collected clothing and food for families that lost their house from a fire. Not only

did many mothers make our own clothes, but they made or gave clothes to neighbours who needed them. Mothers ministered to their community in life giving ways, including sitting at their kitchen table with a tea sharing time with others. Our mothers can be seen in today's story of Tabitha.

Joppa is about ten miles west from Lydda, where Peter was staying. Joppa was a town on the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and Lydda is inland to the east those ten miles. Tabitha is a Hebrew name, and she was also known as Dorcas, which is a Greek name. Being a Seashore community, ships from Greece would land in Joppa with goods for the whole region, including Lydda and even Jerusalem, which was another 15 miles southeast of Lydda.

Peter was called to Joppa because Tabitha had died. Tabitha was a big part of the Joppa community especially the women and widows. Tabitha had made clothes for both and was a life giving leader in the community. Tabitha was a believer in Jesus and shared Jesus' Good News with her neighbours. The neighbours heard that Peter was next door in Lydda and summoned Peter to come to Joppa to help Tabitha. Peter comes and visits with the women and then goes into the room where Tabitha lays – prays and then he tells Tabitha to get up. She does and Peter sticks around, sharing the Good News, and bringing more folks to believe.

Tabitha was also known as Dorcas her Greek name. Having two names is a way of life for many of our Indigenous people and third world countries. They have the name they are known by their friends and family in the community, which is usually in their native language – and they have their English name that all of us outsiders know them as. In many cases we could not pronounce their native name as we do not know the language or are familiar with the name. We found this to be true in Africa with our friends in Malawi. With Tabitha having both names – it is a reminder that Joppa is a mixed Jewish-Gentile community and Peter's ministry in Joppa is to both the Jewish believers and to the Gentile believers. Peter's actions are in continuity with the actions of Jesus, and therefore Peter is an agent of resurrection to the world.

As we share some of Tabitha's story, we will likely see qualities that are similar to our Mother's, or other mothers we know. Tabitha is a highly respected disciple, one who puts her faith into action by caring for the weak and the widowed in her town. The women show Peter the clothes Tabitha made for those who relied upon her generosity. From the brief description of her home and the lack of mention of others in the household, she appears to be a single woman of means. The upper room of her home, where she is laid out to rest, may very well have been a place of

prayer and fellowship where Tabitha played the role of host. That she was significant not only to the widows but to the whole congregation is seen in two of the men being dispatched to find Peter, and in the house filled with the company of the saints, men and women together.

This is the personal story of a much-loved and much-needed woman experiencing first-hand the resurrection power of Jesus. The story is also a reminder that the focus of community life, worship, prayer, the working of miracles, and new life experience was celebrated in upper rooms like that of Tabitha. The Holy Spirit was on the move into people's lives and homes, and in the call to get up and live, we see the life-giving acts of people in our own lives.

This is our call to get up and live in the power of the risen Christ, which can empower us to overcome those things that have harmed and hindered us, and to take the lead in loving service in the communities in which we live. We do not do it alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 280 "Mother and God"

Mother and God, to you we sing:
wide is your womb, warm is your wing.
In you we live, move and are fed
sweet, flowing milk, life giving bread.
Mother and God, to you we bring
all broken hearts, all broken wings.

Invitation to Communion:

Eric: Like a Mother, Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn seven pillars. She has prepared the meal; she has set her table and sent out her servants.

People: **She calls from the highest places in the town: "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine I have mixed".**

from Proverbs 8:1-3, 5-6

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We receive new life in Christ. We share our Good News with others, by speaking, by caring and by giving – just as our mothers taught. Let us give and share the Good News.

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: Generous God, your gifts are countless. You give to us mothers who with you, lead us, guide us, and restore us when we need it most. May we remember the examples of Tabitha and our own mothers who share what they have and give to those in need. We offer these our gifts to you and pray that you will bless them for your work of ministry. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Scripture paints a picture of a world beyond this world - strange to us in its beauty, wonderful in its simplicity.

People: Scripture dreams of every people, every tongue, splendid in diversity, yet finally at peace with one another; comfortable with difference.

Eric: A vision of a new heaven, a new earth.

People: Rivers that bring life, leaves that heal the nations, a home with many rooms - place and space for all, a land of dreams, a vision of oneness, hunger and thirst left behind, violence and death, things of the past.

Eric: Scripture tells a story of a world within this world, strange in the midst of what we know, remarkable in its simplicity, telling all we need for a kingdom of God here on Earth.

People: Scripture paints a picture of a new heaven, a new earth, where the Spirit dwells in men, women, and children - all called to serve, inspired to lead, invited to be whole, strange to us in its courage, beautiful in its simplicity - a people for God.

Eric: In scripture we read stories of mothers who care for their children, and their community. Today in prayer, we give thanks for all mothers and those who are like mothers to us.

People: In our imagination of this new life; may the dream become reality, the story become true, and the picture become perfect.

Eric: As we pray 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.*

Thanksgiving Prayer:

Eric: We think of Jesus in the upper room;

People: where feet are washed and where food is shared

Eric: Jesus, the Messiah declares oneness in the spilling of wine and the taking of a cup.

People: and that where bread is broken - people are made whole.

Eric: The upper room of the Last Supper becomes a place of resurrection and new birth, a time to get up and live.

People: A time to get up and go out into all the world with the good news of joy, commitment, hope.

Eric: We have travelled so far from the upper rooms. We seem so distant from those early believers, but the vision of new life is still ours,

People: today we share the cup and the bread – and receive new life – new life that is ours to share.

Eric: Together we say to God:
All: *Glory to you, forever and ever.*

Communion Hymn: VU 466 “Eat This Bread”

Eat this bread, drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Remembering Jesus at the Table:

People: We do what Jesus did the night before he died.

Eric: He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread (*bread is broken*), and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat; remember me.”

People: Then he took the cup, (*wine is poured*) and said, “Take, drink; remember.”

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:

People: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith that we inherited from our mothers and fathers, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 580 “Faith of Our Mothers”

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.
- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Blessing:

Eric: We go into the world, sharing the lessons our Mothers have taught, going in the name of Jesus, now and forever more.

Forth in Your Name, O Christ: VU 416

Forth in your name, O Christ, we go,
our daily labour to pursue,
you, only you, resolved to know
in all we think, or speak, or do.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: "I Am Woman (1972)" – 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:	Tom	
	Louise	Louise' Granddaughter - Blake
	Betty	Ingrid
	Alison	Brenda
	Nancy	Lisa
	Sarah	Larry
	Brian	Jack
	Zoe	Becky
	Barry/ Marsha	Francine
	Melissa	Karen
	Jenny	Michelle
	Gary	Margaret
	Dolly	Joe
	Chris	Ukraine – Allied and Canadian Forces
	Ann	Barry

Jim
Flo
Dave
Angie

Joe
Becky
Drewry Family - Passing of Randy