

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Mother's Day Sunday – May 9th, 2021

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

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome to Talbot Street for today's Service, celebrating Mother's Day and the Sixth Sunday of Easter. A reminder – we are sharing Communion today, please prepare yourself with a cracker and juice.

We have a fabulous Service for you today honouring and sharing stories about some of the mothers who are responsible for our faith and commitment to our Rural Churches. Thank you to those who offered their story for our Mother's Day Service. Sorry, we cannot include all mothers, but you know how special your mom is to you!

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:

Talbot Street Mothers:

Call to Worship:

Eric: We gather on this Mother's Day, to worship our God.

People: **God gathers us as a Mother Hen gathers her chicks. We abide in God's love.**

Eric: We enter worship today with glad hearts, as we remember our mothers - eager to love and serve God.

People: **Like our mothers, Christ has loved us completely and fully. We abide in Christ's love.**

Eric: We praise the maker of heaven and earth, whose love spreads to all of creation.

People: **Creation is a gift to all, and we are entrusted to care for the good earth. Creation abides in our love.**

Eric: We honour the light, the dark, and the hues between. God makes it beautiful.

People: **Life in its fullness holds great joy and great pain. We are witnesses to the depth of love that fills our days. We abide in the joy of love.**

Eric: We abide in the love of our mothers and of God - the three in one. Let us worship!

Opening Hymn: “Faith of Our Mothers” – Video – First and Second Verse

Faith of our mothers, living still
In cradle song and bedtime prayer,
In nurs'ry lore and fireside love,

thy presence still pervades the air:
*Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
O may thy consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler race:
*Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

Opening Prayer:

God of many blessings, we give thanks for this day. We give you thanks for the mothers in our lives. We give thanks for all that life holds. We give you thanks for your steadfast love, for your faithfulness, for your justice. We gather to worship you, share our joy, and receive your love. Be with us now and always. Amen.

Scripture: John 15: 9 - 17 "A New Commandment" - by Talbot Street Men

Andrew: Mike Authier
Thomas: Tim Jackson
John: Dan Dalglish
James: Don Jackson
Peter: Bill Merritt

Andrew: I was one of Jesus' first disciples – along with Peter, James, John, Thomas and others. I remember some things about Jesus and his sharing of words of wisdom with us. Jesus said, "God was like a Mother Hen, gathering her chicks under her wings". Jesus taught us a lot about love, including his love for his mom, Mary! Here are some of those stories we shared sitting around the campfire...

To be honest with you, most of the time we were with Jesus, we were confused. So much of what he said was hard to understand, like half catching the melody of a song on the wind. You know it's a song, and you know that if you could just hear a little more of it you would recognize it and be able to sing along. That was us; constantly straining to hear and understand.

Usually, we'd talk together late at night or when Jesus wasn't around. And most conversations would begin, "What did he mean when he said...?" Or, "Was anyone else confused yesterday?"

For example, that time Jesus said, "I do not call you servants any longer because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." When we found time to talk later, Peter started by joking that we had had a promotion. We all laughed, but James said it was no joke. It really was a promotion.

Thomas: "But, Jesus has always called us his friends."

John: "And treated us that way too."

James: "I know that. I think he was telling us that there was a change coming somehow. Like he was passing on the job to us in a new way..."

Peter: "Yeah, that must be why he talked of loving each other as a commandment. I mean, he's always been on about us loving each other."

John: "And everyone else!" (laughing).

Peter: "But now it's a commandment, a new one."

Thomas: “Like one of the ten.”

John: “Number eleven?”

James: “No, I think Jesus wants us to know that his commandment is at the heart of all the ten. It’s the foundation. Without this one, nothing else matters; with this one, everything else is covered.”

Andrew: There was silence for a while.

John: “Do you mean that if we follow the love commandment, we don’t have to worry about the others?”

James: “No, I think Jesus is saying that by concentrating on this one, we’ll find that we are taking care of the others too.”

John: “Much easier.”

Thomas: “Except for the bit about dying.”

Peter: “Yes, what did he mean about laying down your life for your friends?”

Andrew: There was a longer silence. We all knew that Jesus had been talking more about death than we had remembered from the early days.

Thomas: “We’re going to be by ourselves soon, I think...” *(silence)* “That’s why he is saying these things. That’s why he wants us to know and remember the important things...”

Peter: “How can we love each other as much as he has loved us?”

Andrew: We all looked around at each other. It was as if we had just stopped being teenagers and become adults and realized that we now had to take responsibility. We were the ones. It was up to us.

Thomas: “So, maybe it is a promotion then?” *(Seriously and slowly)*

Andrew: Even then, we had no real idea about what was going to happen, what it would mean for us, how central Jesus’ new commandment was going to become for us all.

I can tell you now, all these years later, that of all the wonderful things Jesus did and said, it is this one sentence that has kept me going; “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Now that’s like something my mom would say - Bless her heart.

Scripture Hymn: “Faith of Our Mothers” – Video

– Verses 3 & 4

Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without:

*Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
In truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds:

*Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

St. Andrew’s Mothers:

Message: “The Joy of a Mother’s Love”

Today is Mother's Day. God does marvellous things, including creating mothers. Today we've heard stories of mothers who raised their families after an early death of their husband. We've heard the difference our mothers made in our lives. Thank you God, for creating marvelous mothers.

Today's scripture story has the disciples sitting around the campfire telling stories about Jesus' ministry and their understanding or lack of getting the point. Yet it seems they do get the point, "Love one another as I have loved you".

The disciples get the message to love one another as Christ has loved us. This love they find out requires much of them, even as far as laying down their lives for another. They also realize that this commandment of love is the central point of all of the commandments.

This love is a joy, not a burden. However, as we hear the disciples talking, it is not "easy": it requires nothing less than a willingness to lay down one's life for one's friends. To become a friend of Jesus carries a commitment, obedience to the commandment to love one another sacrificially, as Jesus has loved us.

Our mothers may not have physically laid down their life for us, but they lived as if they would, if needed. Regardless of what came at them, they accepted life in a similar way the disciples are accepting Jesus' call to them – to love one another, as I have loved you. That may mean laying down your life for your friends.

Could it be that "laying down", means more like putting your life aside? If so, our mothers have shown us that kind of love as they have put aside their own dreams and goals to ensure we had what we needed to succeed.

God's love is steadfast, and God is faithful. In this Easter season, we expand our understanding of our participation in God's story through the way we show and share love. Our mothers are a perfect example. We are not alone. Thanks be to God for mothers. Happy Mothers Day!

Reflection Hymn: VU 477 "I Come With Joy"

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
 forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
 in love laid down for me,
 in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
 to find, as all are fed,

the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

St. Luke's Mothers:

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:

Eric: Today as we celebrate Mother's Day – we celebrate Communion.

People: In Communion we are gathered together in the presence of God, by the Holy Spirit, and by the gifts offered by the Son of God.

Eric: In Communion we are gathered with those around us, those sharing communion from our faith community, and those around the world. The Holy Spirit allows us to share with those saints gone before us – many we have met today, in pictures and stories.

People. It is great to gather together with our mothers on this special day.

Eric: Gathered in this place of rainbows, reflected in the light of heaven is the bread and wine of promise; the body and blood of covenant; the symbol and action of love.

People: Promise-maker: they are waiting here to be broken and shared for this world, itself broken in warring, in prejudice, in hatred, in loneliness, in arrogance, in power. Yet this world is continuously healed by the love of Christ and our mother's love.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: Today as we celebrate our mothers and all they have taught us, we 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:

People: God, as our mothers of faith have taught us; we love you with our whole hearts, we believe with our whole lives, we dedicate all that we are, in service to you. Take us, use us, mould us, make us. Take all that we are, and all that we offer, and use our gifts to the service of love. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Loving and faithful God, we are called by you and our mothers, to imagine a more loving world;

People: a world where each is treated with mutual respect, where everyone has their daily bread.

Eric: We are called to imagine a world in which people have fair housing, food for daily living, and care for health and well-being - a place where mothers can call home.

People: We witness the despair and destruction of lives through abuse, abandonment, and neglect, and grieve that many times it is mothers who experience those feelings.

Eric: We see the lonely, despairing, and those who have lost all hope.

People: And as our mothers have shared, we are called to not only imagine a more loving world, but to live our lives in love.

Eric: Help us to witness to the love and hope we experience through Christ. May our living usher hope into the spaces we inhabit.

People: We pray for the conflicts and concerns of our wider world.

Eric: Loving and faithful God, we are called to live in love.

People: May our words build up our community and serve to create a more loving world.

Eric: May our actions help to bridge the gaps between us.

People: We pray that our actions and attitudes are your commandments lived in action. Be in our eyes, our hands, our feet, our minds, and our hearts, we pray.

Eric: as we pray the prayer our mothers taught us – Jesus' Prayer...

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.

Remembering Jesus at the Table:

Eric: We speak to these places as we remember that night when Jesus took bread and broke it (*hold up the bread*), took wine and shared it (*Hold up the cup*), took promise and opened it; and we speak to these places as we journey with all the angels singing:

Holy, holy, holy

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest!

Eric: We speak to all these places as we break and share the food of heaven.

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:

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. Our mother's love also feeds us and strengthens us to go forth out into the world to live and share the love we have received. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Blessing:

Eric: As we go, let us go - knowing that God loves us, like the mother hen loves and cares for her chicks. Go now to love and serve the Lord, and may we always find love near – like a mother's heartbeat, now and forever more.

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:	Karen	Special:	Susan	Canadian
	Jasmine		Zoe	Armed Forces -
	Tom		Becky	Soldiers all around the
	George		Earl	world.
	Cindy & Connie		Barry/ Marsha	Robinson
	Lynn		Glen	Family
	Jan		Billy	Morris Family
	Allan		Leone	Deans Family
	Len		Francine	