

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

22nd Sunday after Pentecost – November 1st, 2020

Prelude: “Watchman’s Song” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning folks.

Christmas is only a little more than two months away. This year, our Christmas Baskets Programs are strapped for how they may get food, toys and even money to provide to needy families during COVID. On November 21st, the citizens of Chatham Kent are invited to offer a gift to those less fortunate. The pick up or drop offs will be very similar to the May 16th Miracle. St. Andrew’s, St. Luke’s and Talbot Street Churches will be drop off points from noon to 2 pm. What is collected in our local area, will be used in our local area. The intent is to stock the Christmas Baskets with food and toys, excess food will be used at our local Food Banks.

We are collecting socks and underwear for the homeless (mainly men) until the first week of November. Feel free to leave your donation at your church. We will pick them up from there as Annette and I are recording from each church over the three week period. Thank you for your gifts.

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:

We light the candle as we share our service this morning. The flame of the Candle reminds us of the light of Christ that collects us as the faith community, “We are One in the Spirit”. Thanks be to God.

Call To Worship:

Eric: Beloved of God, let us gather in worship.

People: Beloved are all who worship and give thanks.

Eric: Beloved – all who have hungered and who thirst, in body or spirit, let us gather in worship.

People: Beloved – all who grieve and mourn, and strive for healing of the soul, let us gather in worship.

Eric: Beloved – all who feel meek, who struggle for power and strength in this overwhelming world, let us gather in worship.

People: Beloved – you who have shown mercy, who seek peace, and who stand up for justice, let us gather in worship.

Eric: Beloved are you who follow Jesus’ way.

People: In our worship, let us hear this invitation to be known and seen by God.

Eric: Come, let us gather and hear again the affirmations of Jesus as we worship.

Hymn: VU 232 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Opening Prayer:

In a world full of pain and confusion, we come seeking your healing and clarity. In a world overwhelmed with information and ideas, we come seeking guidance about which to choose and listen to. In a world of diversity and confusion, we come wanting to celebrate your exuberance, yet needing your wisdom to understand each other fully. In a world where creation itself moans for new life, we come hoping to be guided toward renewal. Like the

multitudes who gathered to listen to Jesus, we gather to listen to you, Loving God. Like the thousands hungry for salvation and wholeness, we hunger for meaning and purpose as well. Like lost sheep in need of direction, we have come to worship for your guiding love. Show us the way, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 5: 1 - 12 *(in Story Form)*

Jesus' days were busy. He walked all over Galilee, teaching in synagogues and healing the sick. He taught the good news of God's plan for everyone. People told their friends, and crowds of people came when they heard he was heading their way.

When Jesus saw the crowd of people, he went up the mountain. The disciples, Jesus' closest friends, went with him. When they came to a small flat area, Jesus sat down. This was a signal for the others to sit down, too, because Jesus was going to teach them. The crowd of people was nearby, so they could hear Jesus' words, too.

After time to rest, Jesus began to teach the disciples, saying,

"Blessed are people who feel hopeless, for they will again know that God is with them.

Blessed are the people who see the deep hurts in the world, for they will see that God is with them.

Blessed are the people who wait for God's ways to cover Earth, for they will see the greatness of God.

Blessed are the people who look for justice and fairness, for everyone for they will see the mercy of God.

Blessed are the people who show kindness to others, for they will know the forgiveness of God.

Blessed are the people who seek to follow God's way, for they will know themselves to be in the presence of God.

Blessed are the people who work for peace, for they will know that they are children of God.

Blessed are the people who are shamed or punished, for following God's way for they will be with God forever.

Blessed are you when people call you names because you love God. Be full of joy for God will not forget you."

Message: "On the Right Road"

On this All Saints Day, we are reminded of the saints who have gone before us - those saints which encouraged us in our faith journey. As we talked last week - those saints who had a vision for our church and worked hard to bring that vision to life. Remembering those saints, we continue to reach out towards God's love. We have seen God's love in them and wish to share God's love with others.

For us in the first world, following our journey may be an easier journey than those in our world who are poor, in slavery, or come from a culture of brutality to other humans. Jesus is talking to those people today in the

Beatitudes. To those people, Jesus sets forth the identity, purpose, and direction of his ministry.

The crowd, to whom Jesus is talking to, is keenly aware of the poverty and injustices they face at the hands of the Roman Government. Can Jesus really make any difference in their lives and in their world? What about the disciples? They have already thrown their lot in with Jesus, but do they understand what Jesus is calling them to be and do?

For many of us in the modern world, we see Jesus' very life as representative for the character of God, and how God wishes us to act and be in our present world. Even though we may not be poor, oppressed or taught to hate, we are called into a way of living that is liberating and supportive of those we care about in our world today. Jesus invites and encourages them and us, to be citizens of this new way of being, which he calls the kingdom of God.

We Christians talk a lot about blessings. The blessings that Jesus offers in our story today, only makes sense to those people who recognize oppression, poverty and cruelty. Each blessing that Jesus offers is designed to support, encourage, and nurture a way of life that is opposite to their reality of oppression and poverty. One translation of "Blessing" is best translated "you are on the right road." In other words, Jesus says, "You are on the right road when you are in poor in spirit...when you mourn...when you are meek...when you hunger and thirst for righteousness."

If you are on the road toward God's kingdom, the blessing is about the energy, spirit, and power given to everyone who is on the road towards being part of God's kingdom. We trust the saints gone before us are enjoying their reward in heaven. For us who are taking over for the saints, we carry on their work being supported and encouraged by their examples to us. That's why we call them saints – we don't just take over for anyone. We take over for those special ones – those saints who have inspired us.

On this All Saint's Day, who are the saints in our life or in the life of our congregations for whom we take over for? We are on the journey, with those

gone before us and with those whom we journey with today. “We are not alone”. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: VU 337 “Blessed Assurance”

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.
*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.
*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: As we travel our roads of life, God guides us to stay on the right road. God loves us and we love others in the same way. Because God forgives us, we forgive others. God has blessed us, and we become a blessing to others. 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:

Because you have loved us, we dedicate ourselves to loving others.
Because you have forgiven us, we dedicate ourselves to forgiving others.
Because you have blessed us, we dedicate ourselves to being blessings to others.
Take these gifts, receive this worship, and know our gratitude and devotion, today and always.
Amen.

Hymn: VU 400 “Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer:

Eric: We have not always recognized ourselves in Jesus’ words, Merciful God.

People: **We do not always know how to receive your blessings.**

Eric: Yet, we hear that we are beloved, and our hardened hearts are melted by the kindness and generosity in these words.

People: **We do hunger, Holy One, and we know others hunger, too. We thirst, and we mourn; we grieve, and we seek peace; we strive to be merciful and just, and we know we are not perfect.**

Eric: In your loving grace, help us to hear your blessings, and be empowered by them, to stand tall in our faith and renewed in spirit, as we journey as your people seeking a new world order.

People: **And when our peace has meant hunger or thirst, suffering or pain for others, please forgive us and show us a new way.**

Eric: When our leaders have tromped on the peace of others; when our governments have made decisions that cause brokenness in our world; when the privileged of this planet do not see the diminishment to others that makes their comfort possible, help us to see and understand, and then to act.

People: **We pray for renewal. We pray that the reversals we now understand will make way for dignity and wholeness to be experienced by all, and for a new way to be paved.**

Eric: We pray for justice to prevail, so that peace may be manifest for all.

People: **And we offer ourselves, your children, your multitudes, your beloved, to the work of your blessings and renewal. Help us to awaken to your presence and your grace.**

Eric: We pray in Christ’s name, as we pray his 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.*

Benediction:

Annette: Beloved of God, rejoice and be glad. Go in peace, inviting all to know they are Children of God, now and forever more.

Go Now in Peace:

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: "Moonlight Sonata " – Christie Coatsworth