

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

28th Sunday after Pentecost – November 13th, 2022

Prelude: – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Thank you for supporting this year's Remembrance Day activities.

Next Saturday November 19th is the day that the Merlin and Area Community Assistance Collection is dovetailing with "The Gift" to offer a gift to those less fortunate. What is collected in the Merlin and Area will be used for the Merlin and Area Christmas Baskets.

For our area, Charing Cross, Wesley, North Buxton Park, St. Andrew's, St. Luke's and Talbot Street Churches will be drop off points from noon to 2 pm. Merlin, Fletcher and Dealtown will have a house to house front porch collection starting at noon. Please place your gift on your front porch by noon, and we will get it picked up.

If Saturday does not work for you, the Merlin Friendship Club Foyer will be open for drop offs of your gifts, from 9 am to noon, on Monday November 14th to Friday November 18th. We will make sure they get delivered to the Merlin Kinsmen Hall for sorting on Saturday November 19th.

You are welcome to drop off at the Merlin Kinsmen hall on Saturday, from noon to 2 pm. At all drop off points, we ask you stay in your car, and volunteers will get your gift out of your trunk or side door.

Continue to keep in touch with others and to share our websites; at southbuxton.ca, and talbotstreet.ca

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call To Worship:

Eric: The God of new beginnings, begins with us here in this place.

People: **The God of re-creation, re-creates dead-ends into new living.**

Eric: The God of dreams, dreams in us a new world.

People: **The God of wholeness, brings a new kind of harmony into this world.**

Eric: The God of vision, envisions new possibilities in us.

People: **The God of love, loves our lives and yet makes them new.**

Eric: Come, let us worship our wondrous God.

Opening Hymn: VU 333 "Love Divine, All Loves..."

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,

all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise..

Opening Prayer:

People: God, you are creating a new heaven and a new earth, and you call us to be part of that re-creation. So here we gather to hear again your good news for this world and for ourselves. Open our eyes to see what you are doing, open our ears to hear your words that create this new thing, and open our hearts to the re-creation that begins for us, here in this community. Bless us in hearing your promises today as we offer ourselves in worship and trust in your good news here among us. Amen.

Children's Story: "Video of NeighbourLink"

Children's 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. R
- 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. R

Scripture: Isaiah 65: 17 - 25

Isaiah kept his eyes closed tightly, his breathing slow. He didn't want his dream to be over, it was just too wonderful! But it was like trying to hold water in your hands, he just couldn't hold on to it. This wasn't just any dream, however. It was a special dream, a dream from God called a prophecy, and Isaiah had a gift for not only having these dreams but making sense of them and sharing them. So even though he couldn't keep his dream going, he did the next best thing – he shared it. He climbed out of bed and went out to the market for his morning fish. While he was there, he told the man selling the fish about his dream. Then he told his neighbour, and soon he was telling everyone.

And everyone listened. You see, the people lived in troubled times. There were wars and fights and not enough food, water, and land for everyone. People were sick, people were hungry, people were lonely, and people felt far away from God. So when Isaiah told them about his dream, they closed their eyes and pictured it, too.

Isaiah told them about a world where no one ever cried, except for tears of joy and delight. Where people lived long and healthy lives, and no child would go hungry. A world where everyone had homes and vineyards and fruit to eat, and found joy in their labours. Even the animals would get along with each other, and there would be no more fighting, no more killing, no more hurting. Only love, happiness, and joy.

When he finished his story, whoever was listening would wait patiently, expecting Isaiah to go on. They knew he was a prophet, and they thought he would tell them when this wonderful world would come true. When would it be here, when would they see this with their own eyes? They all would ask him and hold their breath waiting for his answer. But old Isaiah simply told them it is here when we live in God's way.

Reflection: "A Dream for the Future"

As we move toward the end of the church year, and prepare ourselves for Advent and the birth of Jesus on Christmas day, we share texts that hold a vision of a world where God's love and justice are made real for all people and all Creation. As Jesus is about to be born, it is not lost on us faithful that Jesus is the new creation that will share with us God's love. As disciples, we are called to live into this vision of infinite possibilities and participate in this renewed world of hope, peace, joy and love. We start that journey again each year on Christmas Eve.

Isaiah was written over many generations. Today's story is considered to be written after the people of Judah returned from exile in Babylon. Their return was

not as triumphant as they had hoped. Their homeland was a shambles; much had to be rebuilt as they took up their lives again. The prophet speaks to those facing the daunting task of rebuilding Jerusalem.

The prophet speaks God's word of hope: God will not remember Israel's disobedience. The word "remember" in scripture means bringing a past event into the present - with all the power of the original – almost sounds like carrying a grudge. Just as God will not bring past transgressions into the present, the people are also called to leave behind the fear and anguish of exile and embrace the infinite possibilities of "new heavens and a new earth". They are to "be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating", God says through Isaiah.

God is creating "new heavens and a new earth." What might this new heaven and new earth look like? Isaiah shares that this new Creation will be a place where God's people will enjoy long and purposeful lives, as they live in a close relationship with God. The images are opposite to our situations of human distress. Things such as premature death, hunger, having the fruits of one's labour taken by force. No, a new heaven and new earth will even the playing field – that everyone will be equal and live together in perfect harmony. Those who have suffered will be righted, the damage to the earth will be repaired. Like God's forgiveness, we as humanity and as Creation can start over with a clean slate.

But God is not going to do it for humanity, as we look on as passive bystanders. God is inviting us to be participants in this new Creation. Some of us, who may not care for Creation as much as we should, may think – no problem – God going to make it new! But Isaiah makes it clear that God says, "I am creating". The work of creation is now and in the future, and the work of Creation involves our human participation - now and in the future.

Next week is the last Sunday of the Church Year, also known as the "Reign of Christ" Sunday. Next Sunday leads us to the doorstep of Advent. Advent is when we prepare to welcome the Messiah, the Promised One, who breaks into human history to embody God's creating work and the infinite possibilities of "new heavens and new earth". What signs might we observe of "a new heaven and new earth" in your midst – either in our community or in our church? How might we join not only in the vision, but also help to shape the "new heaven and new earth"?

It is a commonly held belief that happiness is for those who experience success in work, relationships, finances, educational achievement, and any of a number of ways that measure success. What happens to the happiness in the midst of all that

success and not have good health? Can a person who struggles, or face losses and uncertainty be happy? What is it that makes people happy? Can you worry about your future and still live a life of happiness and joy?

Isaiah is reminding the people of Judah, that to move forward the need to let go of the “former things.” To gain the joy of success, you cannot drag along the bags of garbage that weights you down. Work towards the vision Isaiah offers and make the City of Jerusalem fitting to be called, “The City of God”! Isaiah hints that if the people are unwilling to let go of what once was, they will be unable to discover what might yet be – like God’s vision of a “new heaven and a new earth”.

I would suggest that also works for us in the 21st Century. Is our church serving our community in a way that our church is fitting to be the Church of God? What fears, failures, or even success of the past prevent us from being able to see the new things God is creating in our Church lives? How about our personal lives?

Do we feel that our Church’s happiness is now behind us? Can we join the vision for our Church’s future? Through Isaiah, God gives us that vision. Let go of the dreams of our past and head towards the dreams of our future as the Church.

What it will take is for us as the Church to trust God in the present. We must trust that God is leading us, creating the vision for us to work towards the “new heaven and new earth”. We can no longer spend our energy by looking back at what once was. Many of us are nervous about what lies ahead. We as faithful Christians claim the promises of God, and yet many times we find ourselves struggling with fear and anxiety. Today Isaiah says God has the vision. Live in the present knowing what God is doing in our midst right now. “Hop onboard, knowing we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 713 “I See a New Heaven”

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

- 1 There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be. R
- 2 There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole

like flowers after the rain. R

- 3 There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love. R
- 4 There, there where we work with the love of
healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: The Holy Spirit leads us to be the Church, and to give to be the Church in our community. Let us give thanks and give of our gifts as we work to be the Church.

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: Keep us in hope and attuned to your presence and working, O God. Then may these and all our gifts, given for your vision of a just and peaceable Creation, be used well. May they bring your realm to flower here among us and in all places, to the glory of your name. 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:

Closing Hymn: VU 211 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne:
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

- 2 Crown him the Lord of life,
 who triumphed o'er the grave,
 and rose victorious in the strife
 for those he came to save.
 His glories now we sing
 who died and rose on high,
 who died eternal life to bring,
 and lives that death may die.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of peace,
 whose power a sceptre sways
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
 absorbed in prayer and praise.
 His reign shall know no end;
 and round his pierced feet
 fair flowers of Paradise extend
 their fragrance ever sweet.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of love;
 behold his hands and side,
 rich wounds yet visible above,
 in beauty glorified.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 for thou hast died for me;
 thy praise shall never, never fail
 throughout eternity..

Blessing:

Eric: Wherever there is love, there is God. Wherever there is God, there is new creation. We are not alone, 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: – 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: Kenny

Chris

Paul

Sarah

Robyn

Terry

Reg and Mary Jane

Dave

Margaret

Bill

Jane

Donna

Elizabeth

Donna

Elizabeth

Martin and Family

Wayne Gray

Larry

Gielse

Ruth McDougall Family

Kerigan

Fran

John

Ken

Grace

Shannon

Tracey

Natalie