

# **South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges**

## ***Twenty fifth Sunday of Pentecost – November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

**Prelude:** “I Dreamed a Dream” – Les Miserables, Schonberg” – by Christie Coatsworth

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to Talbot Street today as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost.

This Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> is the “Merlin and Area Community Assistance Collection”, starting at noon. Front porch collection will start at noon in Merlin and in Dealtown – please be prepared with your Gift on the front porch by noon. We have rural drop offs at Charing Cross, Wesley, North Buxton Park, Fletcher, St. Andrew’s, St. Luke’s and Talbot Street United Churches on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 pm.

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 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will make sure they get delivered to the Merlin Kinsmen Hall for sorting on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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 the car, and volunteers will get your gift out of your trunk or side door. They will be masked and will use sanitizer to ensure everyone’s safety.

What is collected in the Merlin and Area will be used for the Merlin and Area Christmas Baskets.

As Christmas approaches keep in mind our Christmas Projects with Cash donations to support the Chatham Kent Children’s Services Christmas Gifts – send to George by Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and our Annual Personal Hygiene Collection for the Merlin Christmas Baskets – due by Sunday December 12, 2021.

The Chatham Kent Alzheimer Society is hosting their next “Care Series”, Tuesdays 10 to 11 am on Zoom. Email Tara to register.

Need some Christmas Baking? The Royal Canadian Legion in Merlin is hosting their Christmas Bake Sale on Saturday December 4, 2021 – from 10 am to 2 pm. Donations to the Bake Table are welcome – you can drop them off at the Legion at 8 am on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

This week will be Church Board Meetings to talk about returning to in-person church for Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup>; St. Andrew’s at 9:30 am and Talbot Street at 11 am for the rest of 2021. St. Luke’s is meeting by Zoom Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup>) at 7 pm. St. Andrew’s will meet at the church on Thursday (18<sup>th</sup>) at 7 pm.

SBPC Board Meeting is on Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm, at St. Andrew’s United Church, and Talbot Street on Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Both meetings will be in person.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites - [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca) and [Southbuxton.ca](http://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 of the Christ Candle:**

#### **Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** Come, let us give thanks to God.

**People:** We gather together to praise the One who strengthens the weak and hears the prayers of the forgotten.

**Eric:** Come, let us give thanks to Christ.

**People:** We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve those who are empty, who hunger, who are alone at this time of year.

**Eric:** Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit.

**People:** We gather together to exalt the One who prompts us to love, not only our family and friends, but the guests among us.

**Eric:** Come, let us worship God – Three in One.

#### **Opening Prayer:**

**People:** O God, you are the source of our life and the hope of our hearts. We are filled with wonder and we worship you. Every living cell of this universe is filled with your Spirit and every moment of our lives is full of your life-giving presence. You amaze us. Our desire for you is unending. In this time of worship accept our praise, and open us to experience the challenge of your word. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

#### **Opening Hymn: VU 412 "This is the Day" (Video)**

1 This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that our God has made,  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made. (X3)

#### **Scripture: Mark 13: 1 - 8 "A New Day" - by Janet Leppek and Tracey Major**

The temple in Jerusalem was a very sacred site. It was built with enormous limestone boulders that were put into place by means of ramps and pulleys. Hundreds of wagons pulled by oxen had carried those huge stones from the quarries to the building site. Thousands of skilled workers then cut, carved, chiselled, and manoeuvred the stones into place. It was a huge enterprise, which took many years of labour. It's no wonder that people got so excited about the grandeur of this construction.

Each morning during Passover week, Jesus and his disciples would go to the temple. Jesus would stand in the square courtyard until nearly dusk, preaching his message of hope and God's love to the people, challenging them to do what they knew was right, and laying his hands on whoever was in need. They were very long days.

One evening when Jesus left the temple, he led his disciples toward the Mount of Olives. And as they walked, the disciples discussed the temple building itself – what amazing craftsmanship it was; how massive the stones were; how the strength of those stones would make the temple endure forever. The disciples were in awe. “The temple is absolutely breathtaking,” someone said. And they all agreed.

Jesus listened and shook his head in warning. “Yes, the temple is magnificent. But buildings don't last forever. I tell you that not one single stone will be left in place. Someday those huge stones will be scattered and everything will be completely destroyed.”

This thought puzzled the disciples so that when they had seated themselves on the Mount of Olives. Peter, James, Andrew, and John drew Jesus to one side and spoke with him in private. They asked, “Jesus, what did you mean when you said the temple will be destroyed?”

Jesus sat quietly for a while, his eyes gazing far off into the distance. Then he looked at his friends and sighed. “We are entering a time when it will be hard to keep our faith. Some people will try and lead you away from the truth. You will hear of wars and rumours of war; you will hear of famines and earthquakes, but try not to be frightened. Through all these times, God will be with you. And this will not be the end.”

Jesus paused, and then continued as his friends listened carefully to every word. “A new day is coming,” said Jesus, “when the whole world will be what God wants it to be. It will be a time when no one will be hungry or thirsty. No one will be sad or hurting. No one will feel lonely or afraid. When these things happen, you will know that a new time is born.”

“But when will this happen?” Peter asked.

Again, Jesus paused, “You don't know, and I don't know. But trust in me. And trust in God.”

### **Message: “What Lasts?”**

As Christians we reach out to God, believing that God is the Eternal God and God has been and always will be with us and our world. May we live with hope and love and with courage at all our times of uncertainties.

This global pandemic, as well as the climate crisis have brought humanity to its knees. In these present times in which we live have brought us challenge and doubt. We never imagined 30 years ago the world could be turned upside down by unforeseen circumstances. These circumstances have allowed our faith to become battered by fear. Although as Christians we still hold out trust that God is in control and God will provide.

Yet as much as we think that these are unforeseen circumstances – climate change has been ringing in our ears for many, if not all these past 30 years. If we look at Scripture we are told that our ancestors lived in similar times. Reading their stories help us to persevere in the face of our present experiences, during these unprecedented times.

In Mark today, the temple looms so large over the disciples. The temple is pushing 500 or so years old as it was already destroyed during the Babylonian exile. The temple has been such an important part of the lives and traditions of all Jews from all parts of the world in Jesus' day. When we visit the Holy Land we are impressed with the buildings and/or traditions - it seems like they have and will endure forever. Will they?

Annette and I were in Germany in 2014, and toured the town of Heidelberg. Before the Second World War, many Americans studied at the Heidelberg University, which is known internationally as a research teaching University – one of the best in the world. Heidelberg University was founded in 1386, and is today is Germany's oldest university and one of the world's oldest surviving university. During the Second World War the Americans and their Allies did not bomb or destroy the central Germany town of Heidelberg. Therefore the ancient buildings of Heidelberg (including the University) are intact as original specimens of mid 13th century architecture.

In contrast, the town of Cologne, about 250 kilometers northwest of Heidelberg was pretty much decimated, including the Cologne Cathedral, during World War 2. The cathedral suffered fourteen hits by aerial bombs during the Second World War. Badly damaged, it nevertheless remained standing in an otherwise completely flattened city. The twin spires were an easily recognizable navigational landmark for Allied aircraft bombing.

The Cologne Cathedral known as the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter is a Catholic cathedral in Cologne, Germany. At 157 m (515 ft), the cathedral is currently the tallest twin-spired church in the world, the second tallest church in Europe and the third tallest church in the rest of the world. It is the largest Gothic church in Northern Europe. The towers for its two huge spires give the cathedral the largest façade of any church in the world. It is Germany's most visited landmark, attracting an average of 20,000 people a day.

Construction of Cologne Cathedral began in 1248 but was halted in the years around 1560, unfinished. Work did not restart until the 1840s, and the edifice was completed to its original medieval plan in 1880. This building took 630 years to build and only days of bombing to destroy.

After the Second World War the powers to be pledged to rebuild the Cologne Cathedral to its original stature. Repairs of the war damage were completed in 1956. An emergency repair to the base of the northwest tower, carried out in 1944 using

poor-quality brick taken from a nearby ruined building, remained visible as a reminder of the war until 2005, when it was decided to restore the section to its original appearance. Repair and maintenance work is constantly being carried out in one or another section of the building, which is rarely completely free of scaffolding, as wind, rain, and pollution slowly eat away at the stones. Who would have thought? Generation after generation of craftsman worked on this structure. Millions of people passed its façade every year for over 600 years. Surely it would last forever.

The disciples thought the same of the Temple in Jerusalem. It had been there for generations, allowing the Jewish faithful to worship and share traditions used for centuries. Yet we know the history that in 70 years after Christ, the temple was destroyed by the Romans. Some scholars think that this story was inserted into Mark after the destruction of the Temple as Mark was written in the 70 years after Christ. It could have been that Jesus was predicting that specific downfall or he is speaking more generally to the reality that eventually all human structures and systems fail – as history continues to remind us.

If the building fails, what else goes with it? In the case of the temple, the whole structure of the Jewish faith of that time would be changed. In much of his ministry, Jesus had been challenging the authority and power located in the temple. How does any faith community that follows the destruction of the temple or a cathedral survive in times after the collapse and turmoil?

Jesus tells his followers not to be alarmed and not to allow themselves to be led astray. They are to keep their focus on him, not on those who falsely claim his authority. Jesus is also telling us not to be deceived. Jesus shares with his disciples, “A new day is coming - when the whole world will be what God wants it to be. It will be a time when no one will be hungry or thirsty. No one will be sad or hurting. No one will feel lonely or afraid. When these things happen, you will know that a new time is born.”

When Jesus says, “You will know when a new time is born”, it sounds like the birth of a new baby, new creation, new life. God is known to Christians and others of faith as the Creator of all good things. God continues to create – a new day – a new day that will become what God wants it to become. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 699 “Live Into Hope” – Video**

- 1 Live into hope of captives freed,  
of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
the year of God's own jubilee!
- 2 Live into hope the blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.
- 3 Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread,  
to hear God's word and thus be fed.
- 4 Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

### **Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** We have the opportunity to share our resources to help others in our world today. As we start to plan for the birth of Jesus and the Christmas Season, may we look for ways to be your faithful servants. 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:**

**People:** Thank you, O God, for this opportunity to share our resources to strengthen your work in this world. Create in us open and eager hearts to do your work. We offer you these gifts along with our commitment to change the world as you would have us do. Amen.

### **Hymn: VU 400 "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:** Loving God, we think of those who are struggling and we lift up your people in prayer.

**People: We think of those who struggle to raise children, and feel they do not have what it takes.**

**Eric: O God, help them to do their very best and to trust our children will figure it out.**

**People: That we as parents are known to our children as complete and wonderful, and that we are doing the best we can.**

**Eric: Yet today, we do pray for children who go unloved and mistreated, who feel worthless and unwanted, who are unaware of their wonderful value.**

**People: We pray because you have created them and because you love them.**

**Eric: Help each of us to share with all children the good news that, no matter what, they are loved and valuable beings.**

**People: We think of those parents who have lost children through sickness or violence, and who ache for the empty places in their lives.**

**Eric: O God, may they know your healing love, and find themselves empowered to live.**

**People: May each person believe that they are a precious child of yours: created, loved, gifted to be all that you dream for them.**

**Eric: May we find the ways to share that truth with those who must hear it.**

**People: May we affirm and lift up your people every moment we can.**

**Eric: This we pray in the Name of Jesus, 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.*

### **Blessing:**

**Eric: Let us go to where God calls us to bring hope, trusting that the love of God will last forever, the grace of Jesus Christ will never fail, and the presence of the Holy Spirit will never leave you, 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:** “O God, Our Help In Ages Past” - Croft – 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  
Allan  
Louise  
Louise' Granddaughter - Blake  
Betty  
Ingrid  
Alison  
Brenda  
Betty  
Jim  
Brian  
Jack

Zoe  
Becky  
Barry/ Marsha  
Francine  
Adrein  
Gary  
Melissa

Hawley Family  
Mifflin Family