

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Remembrance Day Sunday – November 6th, 2022

Prelude: “The Bluebells of Scotland – Hard Times Come Again No More” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome:

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, time stand still for a moment, and we remember those who died, not for the war, but for a world that would be free and at peace. Welcome to today’s service to remember.

March On The Colours: RCL Branch 465 - Merlin

O Canada:

O Canada! Our home and native land,
True patriot love, in all thy sons command.
With glowing heart, we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free! From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land, glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Welcome & Announcements:

Keep Saturday November 19th on your calendar as that is the day that citizens of 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.

Today we are celebrating Remembrance Sunday. We have received poppy boxes this year. You are welcome to leave a donation for a poppy. Please wear your poppy to remember those who fought for our freedom.

If you wish to donate to the Merlin Poppy Fund, please send your cheques to “RCL Branch 465 Merlin Poppy Trust Fund”, P.O. Box 8, Merlin ON N0P 1W0. Poppy donations are used to help our veterans in many different ways, including those in Parkwood Hospital. Thank you for your donations to all of the Poppy Trust Funds.

This Friday, November 11th at 11 am - there is a community service at the Merlin Community Hall. The Legionnaires will be marching from the Merlin Legion to the Merlin Hall, arriving at 10:50. Please be at the Hall and seated before the Legionnaires arrive. Thank you.

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: Make a joyful noise all the earth. We are embraced by steadfast love and faithfulness!

People: Make a joyful noise all the earth. God has done awe-inspiring things!

Eric: Make a joyful noise all the earth. Let the waters roar, the mountains groan, the grasses and trees clap their hands!

People: Make a joyful noise all the earth. Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Eric: Young men and women went off to war to make Canada a safe and free country.

People: Many allies sought God, for safety and help for God to deliver them from their fears.

Eric: Today we make a joyful noise, as the world works for peace.

People: May we take refuge in God.

Eric: Come, let us worship.

Hymn: VU 820 “Make a Joyful Noise All the Earth”

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

- 1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! R
- 2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.

Worship your God with a song! R

- 3 Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! R

Opening Prayer:

People: God of the living, we thank you for your presence with us today. We thank you for the ways you are with us as individuals. We thank you for the ways you were with our soldiers while in war, and in peace. We thank you for the ways you are with us as a free and peaceful community. We thank you for the ways you are with all Creation. We thank you that we are never alone! Thank you, God. Amen.

Children's Story:

Children's Hymn: B 15 "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world. (Repeat)

Scripture: Psalm 145: 1 – 5, 17 - 21 (in Story Form)

When David was a boy, he spent many hours in the fields with his sheep. He would often take his harp along to play a simple melody or make up a song while he sat in the fields. As he got older, he began to appreciate the beauty and the balance of the world around him.

One day, David awoke early and decided to grab his harp and take a walk as the sun came up. The pink clouds chased away the darkness and chill, and the nighttime insects quieted down as the daytime insects got busy for work. David's heart was filled with such peace and joy, seeing how creation weaved together to create a perfect and divine balance.

As the last bit of the sun shimmered up from the horizon, David began to play a song on his harp and sing a prayer to God. He sang:

"Creator God, how great you are! You grow the tender grass to feed the cattle. You give us fruits, vegetables, and grains to cultivate, wine to share and gladden our hearts, bread to eat and strengthen us, even oil to lotion our skin.

You planted the cedar trees, grew them tall and strong, and now the birds can build nests safely in their branches. Your high mountains are pastures for the wild goats, and even the rock-badgers find a home burrowing in the boulders there.

You gave us the moon, which marks the months and the sun, which marks the days. At night the young lions roar. At dawn, they slink back to their dens to rest as we go off to work until the evening shadows fall once more.

O God, what a variety you have made in all your wisdom! Earth is full of your riches."

Message: “David’s Song of Praise”

Today’s Psalm helps to ground our personal and communal life in praise of God, and to bask in the presence of God who is the source of our identity. In these, we are faithful.

We are called as God’s people to centre ourselves in worship and praise. In today’s world, many people can relate to the experience of life moving so fast that it’s challenging to pay attention to all that’s happening.

As we celebrate Remembrance Sunday, I am reminded of the faithful who headed off to war. Would they like David be sitting out in the open air, as the dawn arrives? Would they feel God’s grace? Would they pull out their pocket bible and read these words of praise from Psalm 145? Would they feel like offering praise to God? Would they bask in the presence of God and feel the source of their identity?

The answer to any of these questions would be based on where they were that morning and what was happening. I am sure our soldiers saw many beautiful sunrises and sunsets while traveling or working to prepare to fight for our freedoms. On those days while in the midst of combat, I can imagine they missed the beauty of the dawning of a new day. For them it is just another day of putting your life on the line.

It’s been almost 80 years since the end of the Second World War. In fact we have less than 20,000 World War 2 Veterans in March of last year, with the average age of 94. Being that numbers is now 18 months old, we could be ½ of that at around 10,000. Although our Armed Forces are in a more supporting role to the conflicts around the world, our modern day soldiers still experience life threatening events in their daily work.

We as God’s Children, desire to see the Kingdom of God revealed in our world today. God’s Kingdom is a kingdom of peace – not of war. We as God’s Children want to praise God for the peace of our world and our surroundings. How might we remember the sacrifice our veterans made, without judging those in war today?

From the very young to the most senior amongst us, many have experienced a God-presence in some form – whether they can name that experience as God or not. God is experienced in nature, art, songs, scripture, prayer, friends, and faithful people. Maybe it was in the awe of the early morning dawn or in the sunrise. When have you felt the presence of God near?

Traditions, rituals, and forms help people develop faithful habits. We learn how to pray and praise through reciting psalms, singing familiar hymns, and hearing the same stories and promises over and over. This does not mean worship can never change and that congregations must follow the same liturgy and sing from the same hymnal they've always used. But it does mean that practices that allow opportunities for comfortable participation can allow for meaningful worship. Learned behaviours of prayer can sustain people undergoing difficult times.

We have heard stories from our veterans about how singing their favourite hymns brought them peace in the moment. Or how reciting the 23rd Psalm or the Lord's Prayer lowered their anxiety level. We use these very acts of worship to ground ourselves in times of want or need. As pastors we use these at times of transitions and at times of celebration.

David himself was a soldier. David would know how his beloved hymns and favourite scriptures would help to keep him in the game. In war, the possibility of dying is very real. What holds hope for you? Beloved hymns and favourite scriptures may help soldiers who offer their selves for their country. We are all God's Children and we each have gifts to offer. Some offer some. Some offered everything. We in Canada, 80 years later, reap the rewards of their sacrifice. So today to each soldier, red, yellow, black or white, we say Thank You! And we will remember them. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: B 681 – “Let There Be Peace On Earth”

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.

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.

God Save the King:

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious, happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

March Off The Colours: RCL Branch 465 - Merlin

Postlude: “Coming on a Wing and a Prayer” – 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