

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Remembrance Day Sunday – November 7th, 2021

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 20th 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, Fletcher, St. Andrew’s, St. Luke’s and Talbot Street Churches will be drop off points from noon to 2 pm. Merlin 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 15th to Friday November 19th. We will make sure they get delivered to the Merlin Kinsmen Hall for sorting on Saturday November 20th.

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. They will be masked and will use sanitizer to ensure everyone’s safety.

Today we are celebrating Remembrance Day Sunday at St. Andrew’s. Although we did not receive poppy boxes this year, as we are not meeting in the church buildings, please remember

to wear your poppy if you go out. The South Buxton Pastoral Charge sent a donation of behalf of all three churches, to both the Merlin and Wheatley Legions. 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 Thursday, November 11th at 11 am - there is a short service at the Cenotaph with masks and social distancing. We can not hold our normal Remembrance Day Service this year, due to COVID. The Legionnaires are not allowed to march this year because of COVID.

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, 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: Let's praise God together.

People: **Let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**

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

People: **The eyes of God are on the helpless, and God's ears are attentive to their cries.**

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

People: **Those who look to God are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.**

Eric: All people involved in war want to see that God is good, and they will be blessed with victory for their righteousness.

People: **God is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

Eric: May we take refuge in God.

People: **Come, let us worship.**

Opening Hymn: VU 360 “A Woman and a Coin” (Video)

- 1 A woman and a coin - the coin is lost!
How much it means to her, what time and toil,
what part it was to play in her bright dreams!
Am I that treasured coin worth searching for?
I'm found, and you rejoice!
What love! What love!

- 2 A shepherd and a sheep - the sheep is lost!
Far from the flock, the one in hundred cries,
then, risking life, the shepherd's voice and staff!
Am I that treasured sheep worth dying for?
I live, and you rejoice!
What love! What love!

- 3 A parent and a child - the child is lost!
The parent feeds on memories and hope,
the prodigal on husks and one last chance.
Am I that treasured child worth waiting for?
I'm home, and you rejoice!
What love! What love!
- 4 Dear God, you sought us when the world was lost,
you gave your only son at what a cost;
your spirit welcomes home the tempest-tossed:
now we can be all you were dreaming of.
We're safe, and you rejoice!
What love! What love!

Opening Prayer:

Unless it is you, O God, who works within and among us, our efforts are for nothing. May we find rest in your presence for our anxious and overworked lives. From the centre of this peace, may we become mindful of a deep joy and happiness for the gifts of life around us: for laughter and friendship, food that sustains and delights, hospitality expressed and received, and for each generation. May your peace end all wars. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Mark 12: 41 – 44 “Love Shown By Giving” *(in Story Form)*

One day Jesus was in the temple talking to his friends who had gathered around him. They were sitting opposite the thirteen wooden boxes that were used for collecting money. A label was put on each box to identify the type of donation it would hold: for the upkeep of the temple; for purchasing food for the people who worked in the temple; and for helping the poor. These boxes were usually placed in a public place so that every contribution was accompanied by a loud clanking sound. Every person in the courtyard could hear the giver dropping in the coins, and often eyes would turn toward the sound. It was expected that everyone would give money to the temple and to the poor as part of their service to God.

A man dressed in fine robes walked up to one of the treasury boxes. He carried a large bag of coins that clattered loudly as they fell into the receptacle. He looked around at the people hoping someone noticed how much money he had put in. Then another man proudly walked up and deposited a handful of gold coins.

“Yes, I am a generous person,” he thought. “God will be very pleased with me.” And he, too, quickly glanced around and saw just how many people nodded their heads in approval at such a grand gift to God. All morning, people paraded past Jesus and his friends and headed towards the treasury boxes. And each person seemed to give more money than the last person. And each person made sure the sounds of the coins would be heard throughout the room.

Jesus sat quietly looking and listening.

Then along came a poor woman, a woman who didn't have any family. All she had were two tiny little coins – the smallest coins imaginable. When she thought nobody was looking, she shoved a hand into her tattered pocket and brought out the two coins, opened her palm and dropped both coins into a treasury box. The coins hardly made any noise at all. The woman stood for a while, said a silent prayer, and then turned and walked away. She hoped no one noticed her.

Not so. Jesus noticed her. She had come so quietly that Jesus had to point her out to his friends.

“Look,” Jesus said to his friends. “It may surprise you to hear that this woman has put more into the temple treasury than anyone else today.”

The friends looked at each other in astonishment. How could two small coins be worth more than all those coins?

“You see,” explained Jesus, “the other people had enough money that they could afford to show off their generosity and still have money left in their pockets. This woman was very poor, yet she has put in everything she had. If you give only to show off, or if you give to God only what you consider to be left over from everything else, you have not given from the heart. This woman gave from her heart. She gave a gift of love – the biggest gift of all.”

All heads turned to watch the woman as she left the temple. Again, Jesus had given everyone something to think about!

Message: “How Shall We Give, As We Remember Them!”

Today as we celebrate Remembrance Day Sunday, we honour our Veterans, especially those who gave their life to secure our freedom. After two World Wars and many regional wars, we may still feel discouraged and impatient as it seems so little changes. In our world today, there is still more than 40 active conflicts at this very moment, with Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq being the ones getting media attention. 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. How might we remember the sacrifice our veterans made, without judging those in war today, or worst yet, actually joining them, because we think we can succeed in bringing peace to their world?

Today we give thanks for opportunities to give. In giving, we are reminded on this Remembrance Day, of what those young men and women gave 70 and more years ago. Many had no idea what they would be required to give – even their own lives. Yet they signed up and off they went to maintain freedom for their brothers and sisters at home here in Canada.

Canada is a diversified country, and over 4,000 First Nation Canadians “volunteered” for the First World War and 4,250 Volunteered for the Second World War. More than 500 Indigenous soldiers died and many more were wounded or captured in both world wars. On the home front, many Indigenous communities participated in the national war effort in diverse ways, either by

donating money and working for the war industry. Despite their contributions and sacrifices, however, Indigenous peoples remained marginalized, without basic civic rights, such as the right to vote. Unlike during the First World War, however, Canadians acknowledged Indigenous participation during the Second World War. As the country looked to create a new order in the aftermath of the war, many Canadians suddenly looked at their country's treatment of Indigenous peoples and did not like what they saw. In this brief climate of recognition, Indigenous leaders, veterans groups and many other Canadians pressured the government for reform and citizenship rights, leading to a Parliamentary review in 1946 and major amendments to the Indian Act in 1951.

The Canadian Department of National Defense shares on its website that “Aboriginal Veterans have served both in Canada's Military Forces and as allies, from the formative times of the War of 1812 to the present. Their military contributions were essential to Canada's survival in earlier times. The Royal Canadian Legion honours today's Aboriginal Veterans and their ancestors”.

Young Black Canadians were eager to serve their country in the First World War. At the time, the prejudiced attitudes of many of the people in charge of military enlistment made it very difficult for these men to join the Canadian Army. Despite the barriers, Black Canadians did manage to join up during the opening years of the war. Black Canadians wanted the chance to do their part on a larger scale, however, and pressured the government to do so.

On July 5, 1916, the No. 2 Construction Battalion was formed in Pictou, Nova Scotia—the first large Black military unit in Canadian history. Recruitment took place across the country and approximately 800 personnel would serve with the battalion at some point during the war. Most were from Nova Scotia, with others coming from New Brunswick, Ontario, the West and even some from the United States. The Black Battalion's chaplain was Reverend William White, who had also played a leading role getting the unit formed. He was given the rank of Honourary Captain—one of the few Black commissioned officers to serve in the Canadian Army during the war.

Today's reading from Mark, challenges us to look past mere appearances and appreciate all who give, regardless of how much they give. These soldiers gave it all for their country, even when their gifts were scrutinized. We are reminded today we are all God's Children and we each have gifts to offer, and the judgment of those in charge of who is worthy and who is not - is definitely not helpful. Each soldier, red, yellow, black or white gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country of Canada. Today to each soldier, red, yellow, black or white, we say Thank You! And we will remember them.

In war, as in today's story, leaders like to make a show of how great they are. Their show may be very well deserved as many military leaders made brilliant decisions that saved lives of some of their battalion and changed the direction of the battle. In the end though, it is the men and women who fought in the front lines that give the most.

I remember having the opportunity to share some stories with Gordon Parker before he passed away. He shared how his Atlantic naval unit was responsible for protecting scores of merchant ships crossing the Atlantic to supply the war efforts. They had to find and blast away submarines that could and would sneak up on the convoy. He shared experiences of the many trips. He felt his unit was lucky that they were never sunk. In pride, he shared the professionalism of his fellow crew members, and how they could "smell" a submarine many miles away.

In War, leaders who only worry about how good they are – are not any good to their battalion. Jesus reminds us of leaders who can put their whole community (or Battalions) at risk by "boasting" leadership of appearances only. Communities and battalions where leadership is focused on appearances will invariably fail in their duties.

In the second scene of Jesus' story comes the most unlikely person who brings her gift to the temple treasury – a widow. By all appearances, she ought to go unnoticed. She places two copper coins in the treasury – a small amount compared to the notable size of donations from Jerusalem's finest. It would seem that her donation would have no effect on the Temple operations. But

her donation draws Jesus' attention to that she gave it all. She gave real action, not just a token.

The widow's action is not only an example of faithful giving, but also a demand for justice. Remembering all of our Veterans for their sacrifices; red, yellow, black or white, also demands justice for all who gave it all. In Justice, may we remember them – all of them; red, yellow, black and white. They all gave everything, some even their lives. We will remember them. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 526 "Weep For the Dead"

To the music of VU 378 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

- 1 Weep for the dead. Let tears and silence tell
of blood and battle, horror and renown.
The years diminish, but do not dispel
the pain of lives destroyed, and life laid down.
- 2 Silent the dead. Remembering we stand
silent as they, for words cannot esteem
causes of war, the love of native land,
all that they were, and all they might have been.
- 3 Raising our flag, we stand with muffled drum,
judged by the colours of God's love and loss,
recalling as we pray, 'Your kingdom come,'
a purple robe, and blood upon a cross.
- 4 Summoned by love that leaves no room for pride,
we pray that every continent and isle,
wounded by war, war's hate may lay aside,
and find a way to heal and reconcile.
- 5 Weep for the dead, from all the ills of earth.
Stand by the cross that bids all hatred cease.
March to the drums of dignity and worth.
Salute the King of Love, the Prince of Peace.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: As we seek to do the right things in our lives and in our world today, God guide us to be prepared and ready to do the work of righteousness in God's name. We as Canadians are blessed with freedom, prosperity and peace, because of those who gave their lives for Canada in many wars throughout our history. Today we give some of ourselves to provide peace and freedom to those who do not have any, whether they be in Canada or around the world. Let us give because we can.

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: May these gifts be multiplied as we conceive of God’s abundant love and give birth to the ways of love and justice in our world. 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: Loving God, we bring to you our prayers of concern.

People: For this privilege, we also give thanks. O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eric: We come together to pray for members of this congregation, for family and friends, and we pray for those who have no one to pray for them. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People: We come together to pray for your creation, to bring the work of conservation, preservation, and reclamation for your support and blessing.

Eric: We pray for all those who help us to make ethical choices in caring for our environment. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People: We come together to pray for people living in fear, to bring the victims of war and oppression, and the targets of persecution and hate, for your protection and advocacy.

Eric: We pray for deliverance from that which divides the world you love.

People: Bring us to each other in peace. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eric: As we pray together 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.*

Blessing:

Eric: As we remember those who fought for us, may we take new risks in serving others.

In the Peace of Jesus the Christ, may we join God in creating justice for us all.

Secured in the power of the Holy Spirit, may we live with joy into the future.

Go in love, carrying hope into all the world, 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.

God Save the Queen:

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

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: Tom
Allan
Louise
Louise' Granddaughter - Blake
Betty
Ingrid
Zoe
Becky
Barry/ Marsha
Francine
Alison
Adrein
Bob
Lori
Gary - Surgery
Carly
Debbie and Boys
Melissa
Brian

Larry
Joe
Karen
Rylie
Hawley Family
Barlett Family
Betty
Karen – Surgery
Will