

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Remembrance Day Sunday – November 8th, 2020

Prelude: “We're Tenting To-Night” – Christie Coatsworth

From WW 1: Words from last verse:

"Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,
Wishing for the war to cease.
Many are the hearts looking for the right,
To see the dawn of peace."

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:

Good morning folks. Thank you for all the Birthday Cards, texts and Face Book posts for my Birthday, a week ago. It is great to be remembered and cared for.

Keep Saturday November 21st on your calendar as that is the day that citizens of Chatham Kent are invited to offer a gift to those less fortunate. For our area, St. Andrew's, St. Luke's and Talbot Street Churches will be drop off points from noon to 2 pm. Merlin 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 8:30 am to 7 pm, on Monday November 16th to Friday November 20th. We will make sure they get delivered to the Merlin Community Hall. On Saturday November 21st, you can drop off at the Merlin Community Hall 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. The intent for this drive is to stock the Christmas Baskets with food and toys, and excess food will be used at our local Food Banks.

We are also collecting socks and underwear for the homeless. You are welcome to put some with your gift on November 21st and we will ensure they get to The United Way. Thank you for your gifts.

Today we are celebrating Remembrance Day Sunday at St. Andrew's. This year the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 465 Merlin would have joined us at St. Andrew's for the Remembrance Day Church Service. 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. 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. Or if you give cash to George Darnley or myself, or any Legion Member, and they will ensure it gets to the Poppy Trust Fund. Poppy donations are used to help our veterans in many different ways, including those in Parkwood Hospital. Thank you for your donations to the Merlin Poppy Trust Fund.

This Wednesday, November 11th at 11 am - there is a short service at the Cenotaph with masks and social distancing. We can not hold our Remembrance Day Service this year, due to COVID restrictions. The Legionnaires are not allowed to march this year for the same reason.

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: Open your ears, O people, to God's teachings.

People: For in parable and story God's wisdom is revealed.

Eric: Come, let us remember the stories of our ancestors in faith.

People: Let us share them with our children, and celebrate the goodness that has come from them.

Eric: God has established decrees with our grandparents and all generations:

People: and God has asked us to teach and continue them.

Eric: Come, people of God, let us raise our hope in God, and remember our blessings;

People: let us never forget God's glorious works in our lives.

Eric: Come, let us worship!

Hymn: VU 271 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
 glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
 place in my hands the wonderful key
 that shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Opening Prayer:

Holy Leader, we are presented once again with many choices. Today we have chosen to worship together in thanksgiving and praise. We have found the freedom and joy of being able to gather in peace; we have found the time and resources to be able to enjoy that precious opportunity; and we have followed the calling of our faith to come together in supplication, intercession, and gratitude. Be with us as we worship, and help us to choose you over and over. Help us to recommit ourselves to the blessings and challenges of our devotion to you and your love. Be made known to us, and help us to feel you near, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 25: 1 - 13 (in Story Form)

Jesus went to talk with a group of people. He told them stories about God's dream. The dream was about a community where everyone was loved, healthy, and happy. People would be treated well, everyone would eat and be filled, and the place where they lived would be beautiful. Some called it the kingdom of God, and some called it God's reign.

This community was so big and beautiful that it is hard to describe, so Jesus told stories to help the people imagine such a place. The stories also helped the people to imagine, wonder, and think deeply about how we should live into the world that God wants for all people.

In this story, he said that the community would be like ten women who were going to a wedding. They had to walk a long distance, and it was dark, so everyone had lamps to help guide them. The lamps needed oil to make them work, but some of the women did not have enough oil for their lamps. Other women carried extra oil for the lamps.

After travelling for a little while, the women became tired and decided to rest. Everyone slept.

Suddenly, a voice woke them up – it was time to get ready to go! The women all hurried to get their lamps prepared so they could go to the wedding banquet. But some women did not have enough oil to keep their lamps alight. They asked the other women if they could share. But the women who had extra oil said no; if they tried to share there would not be enough for everyone. They encouraged the women who did not have enough to go and buy extra oil.

The women with extra oil walked on to the wedding banquet. The women who did not have enough oil went, instead, to the store. After they had bought oil, they hurried to the wedding banquet. But they were too late. The wedding banquet had begun. The women learned that they should always be ready because they do not know what would happen.

The disciples thought deeply about that story and what it might mean. “Perhaps,” said one of the disciples, “we should be ready at all time to keep the light of God’s love shining.”

Message: “We Will 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 are 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, yet still be enthusiastic and committed to make this world a better place, without judging those in war today, or actually joining them, because we have more fire power and we will succeed to bring peace to their world?

Today’s story of the Bridesmaids and their lamps remind us that we must always be ready and prepared to be the light into the world. When the opportunity arises for us to enter into the Room to share, we need to be ready. We can’t say, “Hold on a minute, I’ve got to get oil for my lamp”, or some other excuse. We never know when we may be asked to help. Will it be our generation, or will it be our children’s generation, or maybe even our grandchildren’s generation that may be asked to help? We do not know that answer. What we do know is we, or they - the next generation, need to be ready to act when they are asked.

If we think about it our next generations have a different world view than most of us. I’m not saying its better, but it is different. The chances of the next generation of some warring country, asking our next generation to help them, may be a reasonable expectation, versus them asking our generation. Much of

that expectation is about life experiences. We as the power generation, likely have no idea that our youth have made friends with youth across the world electronically using social media. That is not to say it is happening, but there is a mighty possibility they would connect a lot sooner than we ever would. It's about their life experiences – this what our youth do and what our youth know about. We have no idea.

How might we share the commitment, to be shared by each generation, with a readiness to respond, trusting the assurance that we can bring the Kingdom of God to their world? We have no idea who will, when they will or why they will ask us or invite us in.

In Matthew's time, which is about 30 some odd years after Jesus' resurrection, it appears very little, if anything, in the lives of the Hebrew people has changed. The Roman Empire is still in charge. The poor continue to be exploited. The Romans use their military might to keep everyone in line and following their rules.

Jesus preached about the realm of God – God's Kingdom among us. Jesus raised expectations for both personal and social transformation for God's people. But the promise of transformation has gone unfulfilled? How do the early Christians face the challenge of trusting and trying to live into that promised transformation when nothing seems to be happening?

Is our question earlier relevant when we asked, "How do we as Christians honour our Veterans, yet still believe that someday those 40 conflicts will be over?" How might we trust, and live, into the promised transformation of peace, when nothing seems to change?

Today we hear in Jesus' story that if we are like the foolish maidens, we may be shut out of the Kingdom of promise. In one translation, Jesus says, "The door is shut." Jesus tells us to always be ready. You never know when the door will be opened and you will be invited in. You never know who is going to be invited in. We are to be prepared. We are to be ready.

No one else can prepare for us. Participation in the realm of God means doing the hard work in advance before the stranger asks you to come in. The

message to us Christians today is that the transformative moment for the Kingdom of God will come in its own time. Yet if we only half-hearted or half-prepared, that will never do. If we fail to do the work, we will miss the opportunity when it arrives. Expect delays - but be ready. For those who prepare, their light will shine bright, and the door to God's realm will be open.

Remember we are on the journey, with those gone before us and with those whom we journey with today – including the next one or two generations. “We are not alone”. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

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:

Today, more than most, we ask you to hear our prayer of dedication. We dedicate ourselves as we are ready to be in your presence and to be your people. May these gifts bring peace and freedom to all those in need. Bless these gifts in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. 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 are a people who have often taken our faith for granted.

People: **We have allowed ourselves to become distracted by the constant light show that is human life on this planet in this age.**

Eric: And yet, we gather desiring to be your people in truth and honesty.

People: **Although we are surrounded by the glittering masterworks of technology and entertainment, we sometimes struggle to find your light.**

Eric: We long for clarity of life in your love, but the temptations of our culture can consume us. Help us to be ready and to be renewed when we fall short.

People: **Fill us with your joy, humility, justice, grace, and mercy. Help us to be replenished by your forgiving love and teach us to renew others as we go.**

Eric: Renew your planet, we pray.

People: **Teach us to walk gently upon it, as readiness in your reign.**

Eric: Renew your communities, we pray.

People: **Teach us to work and live in harmony and justice, as readiness in your reign**

Eric: Renew your children, we pray.

People: **Teach us to find deep purpose and satisfaction in worshipping you, as readiness in your reign.**

Eric: Renew your leaders, we pray.

People: **Guide them to be led by compassion and wisdom, and help us to support them in their endeavours toward the common good, as readiness in your reign.**

Eric: Renew your presence among us.

People: **Help us to discern your light, even in the brightness of the lights of this world, as readiness in your reign. And receive us into holy communion with you – united in the glorious fruition of love imagined, designed, and embodied.**

Eric: We pray in the name of the embodied one, Jesus the Christ, 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: **Go now to seek and worship God. Allow God to work in you. Give thanks for God's grace, as we go in peace, 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: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" – 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".

Brown Family (Passing of Murray)
Joanne – Erie Café (passing of Young)
In hospital: Cleata
Mike
Ken
Accident: Lyle
Carl
Keith
Zoe

Cancer: Wayne
Karen
Ian
Jasmine
Recovering: Florence
Angie
Special: Andrew (presenting his grad
research project this Monday at noon)