

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

## *Thanksgiving Sunday – October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

**Prelude:** “Bringing in the Sheaves” – by Christie Coatsworth

### **Welcome & Announcements:**

Welcome to St. Luke’s for Thanksgiving Sunday.

St. Luke’s is hosting their Fall Perch Fry Take Out on Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5 to 6 pm. Tickets are \$25 and available from Marjorie or Susan.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites - [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca) and [Talbotstreet.ca](http://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:** Children of God; rejoice and be glad!

**People:** **The world is full of wonder and delight; God’s creation echoes with joy.**

**Eric:** When life seems to become a nightmare,

**People:** **God can fill us with dreams of hope and courage.**

**Eric:** By God’s grace, our seeds of sorrow can yield a bumper crop of thanksgiving.

**People:** **By God’s love, our flood of tears become fountains of grace.**

**Eric:** Our crops are returning amazing yields from the seeds we planted in springtime.

**People:** **By God’s gifts of sunshine and rain, we are truly blessed this season.**

**Eric:** God does wonderful things.

**People:** **We rejoice and give thanks.**

**Eric:** Let us worship with thanksgiving.

### **Opening Prayer:**

**People:** **Hot showers in the morning, and cool breezes in the evening; work that provides for our families, and abundance that makes us generous; funny jokes told by third graders, and the silent tears of a grandmother; these blessings are ours, God of Creation.**

**Eric:** Teachers who patiently help us with our math, and mentors who keep us on the right paths; friends who clear off sidewalks before we waken, and employers whose hearts are greater than their profits; piano teachers who smile at our repeated mistakes, coaches who teach us (one more time) how to curl the ball into the goal; these blessings are ours, God of Joy.

**People:** **Dogs who bounce us awake early in the day and cats who lullaby us to sleep at night; grandfathers who teach us how to whittle and sisters who give up a date to babysit; little boys who always forget to wipe their mouths and people who always remember to say, “thank you”; these blessings are ours, God in Community.**

**Eric:** God of all great Gifts, including your Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us, in every word we speak, we offer our utmost thanksgiving. Amen.

**Opening Hymn: B 56 “God Will Take Care of You” (Video)**

Be not dismayed whatever betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.

*God will take care of you,  
Through every day, over all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.*

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,  
God will take care of you;  
When dangers fierce your path assail,  
God will take care of you.

*God will take care of you,  
Through every day, over all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.*

All you may need He will provide,  
God will take care of you;  
Nothing you ask will be denied,  
God will take care of you.

*God will take care of you,  
Through every day, over all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.*

No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,  
God will take care of you.

*God will take care of you,  
Through every day, over all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.*

**Scripture: Matthew 6: 25 - 33 “God Will Take Care of You” - by Brian and Susan Pepper**

**Peter was looking worried. “We have hardly enough money left to buy food,” he said to Mary. “And I really need some new clothes. The ones I have are all raggedy.”**

"I feel afraid too," said Mary. "I like going around with Jesus, telling people about God's love, but sometimes I wish we didn't have to wonder every day if someone was going to give us something to eat."

Peter and Mary decided to talk to Jesus about the problem. "We're worried," they said to Jesus. "We're afraid!"

"I worry sometimes, too," said Jesus. "But God helps me stop worrying, especially about things like food and clothes. We need food and we need clothes, but there are far more important things. Your life is full and rich and happy when we go around and tell people about God's love, isn't it?"

Mary and Peter both nodded, yes.

"Look up in the trees," said Jesus. "See those tiny birds? They don't worry. They aren't afraid. They don't have jobs to earn money. But they have enough to eat and a nice nest to sleep in at night."

Jesus put his arm around Peter's shoulder. "God loves those birds, Peter. But you and Mary and everyone else – all of God's people on earth – are far, far more important than the birds."

"I know that's true, Jesus," said Mary. "But maybe the birds don't feel afraid the way I do."

"I'm sure they don't, Mary," said Jesus. "But if you feel really, really afraid – if you worry all night long – is that going to bring you lots of food. Is that going to bring you some new clothes, Peter?"

Jesus sat down on the grass under the trees. "Look here," he said. "See this tiny little lily? Isn't it beautiful? Even the great King Solomon, when he dressed up in the best clothes he had – even King Solomon wasn't as beautiful as this tiny little flower."

"I think I know what you are going to tell us now," said Mary. "God loves this little flower, but God loves us way more. Way, way more!"

"Yes," said Jesus. "Of course we need to be careful. We need to work so that we have food and clothes. God knows that we need to eat and keep warm. But the most important thing is to live God's way – to say thank you to God for the kindness and the love we feel. If we do that, we won't worry as much about clothes and food."

### **Message: "Caring With Thanksgiving"**

Today's message is a reminder that we already have many blessings and that we should not worry about the small things. We all know of affluent people who have lots of money, but are always worried about something. What good does this worrying do? It is said that 90% of what we worry about never comes true. Yet people worry so much about something that it keeps them awake at night. When they share their worry with someone else that person can remind them that they are much more resourceful than the things they are worrying about.

Jesus shares this with Peter and Mary that God cares for the little birds, and the little birds do not worry. They just head out knowing where to look for food, and that's exactly what they do. They head out for the food. Yet Peter and Mary are worried about whether they can afford food and clothing. Jesus reminds them that their job is to share God's love with everyone they meet. In doing what they are enlisted to do, they will find folks who will listen, and find folks who will offer them a meal and maybe even lodging.

Peter and Mary are happy with the job that has been entrusted to them. Go! Do! - what God has called you to do and don't worry – God will provide for your needs. Worry will not get the job done – so quit the worrying and get to work.

I wonder what it may have been like ten thousand years ago, when humans woke up to an empty stomach. They would head out to 'work', which meant going and finding food. Did they ever worry whether they would find something? Or did they just keep looking until they did? Their work would involve foraging or hunting. Their work had a more direct result than what we get from work today. You would forage, find a root, and eat it. You would hunt an animal and eat it, maybe even right there. It was a much different time from today.

Today you go to work at a job. Your work depends on other people and usually on circumstances you cannot control. You work today and you get paid in two weeks or in a month, depending on your pay schedule. Results from your work are not an immediate outcome. You will need to learn some budgeting, as money is limited to your amount of pay. Today many of us are so removed from the land that we do not grow gardens or raise chickens. No, we go to the grocery store and buy everything.

Worrying about things may be easier today, especially when we are not in control of so many things. But as Jesus says, "Worrying will not make it happen". Go to work and keep busy and that which you are worrying about will pass quickly, because first of all because you are too busy to worry about it, and second of all it never comes true.

Then Jesus shows us the flowers in the field and how beautiful they are without clothes, make up or face lifts. They are more beautiful than all the special clothes King Solomon wore. If God cares for the lilies in the field – God surely cares for me and you.

Today is Thanksgiving Sunday and that time of year that we look to say thanks for our gifts and to share what we have with others, especially food. It may be a good time to take stock. To think about those things you worried about over the past year. How many came true? How many were solved because of your worry? How has your body suffered because of the worry? Therefore we have even more to be thankful for.

Let us give thanks for all those blessings we receive. Let us give thanks for all those relationships we have built upon this past year. Let us give thanks for the bountiful harvest, for the good food and for great family and friends. We have so

much to be thankful for. Because we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: TH 588 “God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall” – Video**

God sees the little sparrow fall,  
it meets his tender view;  
if God so loves the little birds,  
I know he loves me too.

*He loves me too, he loves me too,  
I know loves me too;  
because he loves the little things,  
I know loves me too.*

He paints the lily of the field,  
perfumes each lily bell;  
if he so loves the little flow'rs,  
I know he loves me well.

*He loves me too, he loves me too,  
I know loves me too;  
because he loves the little things,  
I know loves me too.*

God made the little birds and flow'rs,  
and all things large and small;  
he'll not forget his little ones,  
I know he loves them all.

*He loves me too, he loves me too,  
I know loves me too;  
because he loves the little things,  
I know loves me too.*

**Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** We as the church are a mirror to our community and to the world, with joys of thanksgiving and giving, to better serve those who need our help. Today we celebrate Thanksgiving as we 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:** As you refresh us with all your gifts, God of Joy, we offer our gifts so that others might be touched by your grace, feed on the gifts of your creation, be clothed in the graciousness of your compassion, and embraced in your loving arms. 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:** As we gather together for Thanksgiving celebrations: May we be mindful of those who are lonely, those who are friendless, those who are forgotten. May they know you God are always with them.

**People:** As the food is cooked and shared this week: May we be mindful of a mother who cradles her hungry child, and work for ways to share food around the world. May they know they are never alone.

**Eric:** As we go for a walk in the fresh, crisp outdoors and enjoy the freedom to do so: May we remember all those held captive by violence and war, by addiction and pain, by brokenness and despair. May they know you God are in their pain and injustices.

**People:** Rather than simply speaking words of thanks and then returning to life as normal, may our compassions be intensified, our concerns broadened, our hearts enlarged with your grace, O God.

**Eric:** Be in our actions, as we offer 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:** God has done wondrous things for us! Welcome friends and families to your table. Christ would have you include the stranger, as well. Go, with glad and open hearts into the world. The Holy Spirit goes with you to give hope and courage to all, 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:** “Now Thank We All Our God” – 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 - Leukemia  
Zoe  
Becky  
Barry/ Marsha  
Francine  
Alison  
Adrein  
Melissa  
Larry  
Brian  
Bob  
Betty  
Ingrid  
Lori  
Florence  
Tracy's Family  
Janet and Tracey  
Adam's Family