

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

World Wide Communion – October 2nd, 2022

Prelude: Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Today is Worldwide Communion Sunday.

Saturday's at 7 at St. Andrew's in Chatham. "Phantom of the Opera" is the October 15th Performance. Call the church at 519-352-0010 for tickets or more information.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - Talbotstreet.ca and Southbuxton.ca.

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for today's music and Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: We are not possible without you, God.

People: **We are the products of those who came before.**

Eric: We influence those who come after.

People: **You bind the generations to one another.**

Eric: We offer the treasures we find in you to one another, all over this world.

People: **As we share together in Communion, we pass our treasures down through the ages.**

Eric: Hear us as we worship you.

Opening Hymn: VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord..."

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth
and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayer of Confession:

People: Gracious God, we come before you as bearers of a faith for which we are not always known. Sometimes we shrink from the gift entrusted to us, as if it is the least part of ourselves, as if passing trivialities matter more, as if faith has no real weight in the scheme of things. Forgive us our unfaithfulness, especially on this day that we share our faith with fellow Christians, across the globe. Call us back to life in you, today and every day. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Eric: God is merciful and forgiving. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ, we are assured that God sees us from far and greets us with tender mercy when we return to God. Therefore, let us be at peace with ourselves, with God, and with each other, throughout the world. Amen.

Children's Story:

Children's Hymn: VU 345 "Come, Children, Join..."

- 1 Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!
Let all with heart and voice,
saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!
- 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!
Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!
Christ calls his people friends,
the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!
- 3 Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!
The whole creation o'er
let all God's love adore,
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1: 1 - 14

I, Paul, am on special assignment for Christ, carrying out God's plan laid out in the Message of Life by Jesus. I write this to you, Timothy, the son I love so much. All the best from our God and Christ be yours! Every time I say your name in prayer—which is practically all the time—I thank God for you, the God I worship with my whole life in the tradition of my

ancestors. I miss you a lot, especially when I remember that last tearful good-bye, and I look forward to a joy-packed reunion. That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith—and what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, and now to you! And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.

So don't be embarrassed to speak up for our Master or for me, his prisoner. Take your share of suffering for the Message along with the rest of us. We can only keep on going, after all, by the power of God, who first saved us and then called us to this holy work. We had nothing to do with it. It was all his idea, a gift prepared for us in Jesus long before we knew anything about it. But we know it now. Since the appearance of our Savior, nothing could be plainer: death defeated, life vindicated in a steady blaze of light, all through the work of Jesus.

This is the Message I've been set apart to proclaim as preacher, emissary, and teacher. It's also the cause of all this trouble I'm in. But I have no regrets. I couldn't be more sure of my ground—the One I've trusted in can take care of what he's trusted me to do right to the end.

So keep at your work, this faith and love rooted in Christ, exactly as I set it out for you. It's as sound as the day you first heard it from me. Guard this precious thing placed in your custody by the Holy Spirit who works in us.

Reflection: "Good Treasure - Throughout the World"

In today's story Paul is sharing with Timothy his kindled faith from his mother, Eunice and Grandmother, Lois. We too have most likely received our kindled faith from our grandparents and parents. In our faith and with reflecting of the faithful in the Early Church, we are inspired to worship and to testify about God. Like our Fathers and Mothers before us - we pass along our faith to our children. Together we all rely on God's gift of grace.

Paul shares the living faith that is passed on from age to age, from generation to generation. As we experience how our parents live and use their faith, we too use our faith in similar ways. Take for example as we experience grief. We as children have seen ways that our parents experienced their faith when our grandparents passed away. We may do similarly when someone we love passes away. I remember my mother gathering us together to share a prayer for the families that have lost someone. My mother reminded me of the faith of our grandparents. Actually at both my grandparent's funerals the minister shared words that it seemed like my grandparents had written those very words.

Paul reminds us that although he himself is in prison, he rejoices in Timothy's faith, connected to the faithful generations before him, Timothy will continue to nurture his faith, in the Early Church community, and with the support of that community and his faithful mother and grandmother, Timothy's faith will grow deep and in turn his faith will go on to the next generations. Even though Timothy

is a young man and his life circumstances may have been unique to his young age, Timothy would find commonality of experiences with his mother and grandmother.

Writing from a Roman prison, from which he does not expect to be released, Paul testifies to the gospel message he has long proclaimed, and appeals to Timothy to continue that proclamation. Paul laments many things: followers who have deserted him, his awareness of ongoing conflict with the larger Christian community, and his knowledge of people turning away from faith. Yet despite such sorrows, Paul demonstrates remarkable calm in the face of impending death. Affirming his calling as an apostle and teacher, Paul calls upon Timothy to carry on his legacy, urging him as a leader in the church to rekindle his faith by trusting and relying on the spiritual heritage gifted to him by his biological family, his mother and grandmother, and by his family of faith, Paul himself. Timothy's faith is the good treasure that is its own reward.

As we work through our feelings of personal life experiences, we observe the proclamation of faith and testimonies of those gone before us. It is in our remembrances of a loving and merciful God who helps to pull us through. Our faith becomes our good treasure that is its own rewards.

We have a long history of faith; Stories from the bible which shares up to 5,000 years of faith to stories of generations who built our Rural Churches over 100 years ago. Paul's story reminds us that empires will come and go, and that apostles will be jailed and threaten to silence, but "they" cannot extinguish the flame of love and hope that is passed from hand to hand as ordinary people live out their faith. Many empires have tried, and 70 years later we still have Christian Churches in countries where they are banned. The faith of those faithful, continues to rekindle the faith to the next generation. Those grandparents who defied the officials are long gone, yet the church is still there. Rekindling faith of ourselves and others is a sacred task that belongs to all Christians and we are the inheritors of continued faith, even when our faith is banned.

This week's readings remind us that faith grows in community. One generation passes the knowledge of God's grace on to the next, and a faithful community both remembers its heritage and considers its future legacy. We see this especially in Rural Churches. Some of that is because our Rural Churches are family churches – a church of our personal families. Our mom and dad's church, our grandparents and great grandparents were a part of the history of this church, throughout the years.

Paul calls on Timothy to remember “the faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice...” Paul says to us today, “the faith that lived first in your grandmother and your mother”. It is their faith that reminds us not to aim to increase our own faith, but to share our faith with others and pass on the legacy passed on to us.

What object or symbol might be placed today to help people recall and remember those who passed on their faith and observe how that faith has sustained during difficult times? Today is World Wide Communion. In today’s great sacrament, we connect our faith with others around the world, and with those gone before us. We are one, in the Holy Spirit. We are One in Communion. We know we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 580 “Faith of Our Fathers”

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
 faith of our fathers, holy faith,
 we will be true to you till death.
- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
 faith of our mothers, holy faith,
 we will be true to you till death.
- 3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
 faith for today, O living faith,
 we will be true to you till death.
- 4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
 Faith born of God, O living faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: God has given us good gifts: the gift of life, the gift of love, the gift of mercy, the gift of this good Earth, our home. The gift of teachers, the gift of presence, the gift of people to love, the gift of a call to serve, and the gift of hope for the future of God's world, and the gift to share our faith with Christians around the world. God has given us good gifts. Let us return for God's use a portion of what God has given us, to further God's purposes in this world.

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: O Holy One, may our hearts be attentive to your voice. Open our eyes to the needs of the world, as we share Communion today. Strengthen in us the mission and spirit of our world wide faith community. Accept and use this offering towards furthering the reality of your realm on Earth through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Invitation to Communion:

Eric: Rejoice before God you and your children.

People: Rejoice with the stranger, the widowed, the orphan.

Eric: Rejoice, you who were once enslaved.

People: Break the bread of freedom.

Eric: Drink deep from laughter's cup.

People: Rejoice, for God has blessed us in all we produce, in all we undertake.

Eric: Together, let us celebrate.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

Eric: One world, spinning freely, yet too often fractured and confined.

People: We, too, often find ourselves broken, alone, feeling powerless.

Eric: Remind us of the words written long ago to Timothy, encouraging him to rekindle his faith.

People: Spark your fire within us, the fire that energizes and renews and brings new life to us and the world.

Remembering Jesus:

Eric: As a Samaritan paused to give Jesus thanks, so we gather on this day – people from around the world – to celebrate Christ's presence in our midst.

People: We use bread from our culture, and from others, as a potent symbol that you, our God, are the God of all people; that your love reaches not only us, but others besides.

Eric: Open us to listen to them.

People: Open us to learn from them.

Eric: Open us to be present for them in loving, equal, and Christ-like ways.

People: This day we take Communion with all the world and in so doing, declare that Christ is present for all people, challenging unjust systems with God's challenge and promise.

Eric: As we break bread (*Break the bread*) and share a cup (*Lift the cup*), may we remember the Christ present with us through all these years and across all this world, present with us as we rededicate ourselves to him, now and forever more. 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: The gifts of God, for the People of God.

Distribution of the Bread and the Juice:

(please wait, so we can all partake as one)

Eric: The Body of Christ broken for you.

(please wait, so we can all partake as one)

Eric: The Blood of Christ poured out for you.

Prayer After Communion:

People: Spirit of life, love, grace – God, you have ushered us in, fed us, blessed us and renewed us. Guide us now as we go forth that our lives may bear witness to your gracious, miraculous, and everlasting love. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 672 “Take Time to Be Holy”

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
- 2 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
- 3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

Blessing:

Eric: We go forth in faith with our brothers and sisters around the world. Go forth in the promise of God’s steadfast love, 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: Christie Coatsworth

Prayers:

Please include these people in your prayers this week.
We offer prayer for these people each Sunday morning. "In the Spirit - We Are One".

Cancer: Kenny
Cheryl
Chris
Paul
Reg and Mary Jane
Dave
Margaret
Bill
Jane

Donna
Elizabeth
Donna
Elizabeth
Martin and Family
Smith Family – Richard
Morris Family – Cleata
DeBoer Family – Brad