

# *South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges*

*Thanksgiving Sunday – October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Prelude:** by Christie Coatsworth

## **Welcome & Announcements:**

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)

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

### **Call to Worship:**

**Eric:** God of the rivers, you bring water to our communities to quench our thirst and soak our fields.

We praise you, O God!

**People:** God of the land, you nourish the soil and grow life in trees, grasses, and gardens. We praise you, O God!

**Eric:** God of the harvest, you bring forth bounty from the earth and share it with us. We praise you, O God!

**People:** God of community, you call on us to share, to make room at our table, to be grateful.

We praise you, O God!

**Eric:** We give thanks!

**People:** We praise you, O God! Let us shout and sing together with joy!

### **Opening Hymn:** VU 516 “Come, You Thankful People...”

Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide  
for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For our God, one day, shall come,

and shall take this harvest home;  
    from the field shall in that day  
    all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast;  
    but the fruitful ears to store  
    in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest home!  
    Gather all your people in,  
    free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
    come, with all your angels, come,  
    raise the glorious harvest home. \*\*

**Opening Prayer:** *(based on Psalm 65)*

**People: Creator God, we come together today to praise your awesome deeds. God who answers prayer, we give our hopes, our dreams, our struggles to you. We are happy in God's house. We give thanks for your goodness, your mercy, your presence among us. You crown the year with your bounty, and we are grateful. We are so grateful. Amen.**

**Children's Story & Lord's Prayer:**

**Children's Hymn:** "Count Your Blessings For the Fruit of All Creation"

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.  
    *Count your blessings, name them one by one;*  
    *Count your blessings, see what God hath done;*  
    *Count your blessings, name them one by one;*  
    *Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. [Refrain]

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [Refrain]. \*\*

**Hebrew Reading: Deuteronomy 8: 7 - 18**

The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land with streams that flow from springs in the valleys and hills. You can dig for copper in those hills, and the stones are made of iron ore. And you won't go hungry. Wheat and barley fields are everywhere, and so are vineyards and orchards full of fig, pomegranate, and olive trees, and there is plenty of honey. Moses said to Israel: After you eat and are full, give praise to the Lord your God for the good land he gave you. Make sure that you never forget the Lord or disobey his laws and teachings that I am giving you today. If you always obey them, you will have plenty to eat, and you will build good houses to live in. You will get more and more cattle, sheep, silver, gold, and other possessions. But when all this happens, don't be proud! Don't forget that you were once slaves in Egypt and that it was the Lord who set you free. Remember how he led you in that huge and frightening desert where poisonous snakes and scorpions live. There was no water, but the Lord split open a rock, and water poured out so you could drink. He also gave you manna, a kind of food your ancestors had never even heard about. The Lord was testing you to make you trust him, so that later on he could be good to you. When you become successful, don't say, "I'm rich, and I've earned it all myself." Instead, remember that the Lord your God gives you the strength to make a living. That's how he keeps the promise he made to your ancestors.

**Scripture: Luke 17: 11 - 19**

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men with leprosy came toward him. They stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Jesus looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." On their way they were healed. When one of them discovered that he was healed, he came back, shouting praises to God. He bowed down at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was from the country of Samaria. Jesus asked, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Why was this foreigner the only one who came back to thank God?" Then Jesus told the man, "You may get up and go. Your faith has made you well."

**Reflection: "Happy and Grateful Thanksgiving"**

Today is Thanksgiving Sunday. Many families have thankful rituals around this day as we understand this day we give thanks. Deuteronomy is about Moses sharing with the Exodus people of Israel to remember how God has blessed them and they must give thanks to God for their blessings.

Moses is preparing the Israelites for the day when they will enter the Promised Land. They will need to remember that they did not enter that land on their own. It is God who is bringing them into that land. It is God who will help them to overcome the inhabitants of that land. It is God who will provide for their needs in

that land. They will have a variety of great and plentiful food, lots of “milk and honey”. They shall eat until they are full, and you will give praise to God for your good land and its blessings. Thanksgiving Sunday is our reminder to God’s blessings upon us.

I was talking to a gentleman the other day about how he had dropped off from going to church. He had as much money as he needed to live comfortably, but found something was missing. We talked about faith. His background was more to the black and white of faith – heaven and hell, sin and good, etc. His wife had passed away lately and I asked him if he had felt her presence. He was not quite sure, but appreciated there were times when he wondered. We talked about how faith can keep us grounded in the times when life gives us a crisis or two.

Moses is sharing that as the Israelites remember their covenant with God, will keep them grounded. If they forget, and life takes a turn for the worst they will find themselves lost. Remembering what God has done is the way to wisdom and fullness of life. On the other hand, forgetting is the steep winding road to foolishness and a living death.

Moses recaps the miraculous ways that God has the Israelite People during the Exodus. You were once slaves in Egypt and God set you free. God led you through the desert of poisonous snakes and scorpions. There was no water – the Lord split open a rock and the water flowed freely. God gave you manna, a kind of food your ancestors have never seen. God is testing you, so you will trust him. Later God will be good to you.

Moses is sharing that the “Promised Land” will be much more than the Israelites can imagine. They will have prosperity that they have never had before. Yet Moses warns them that when that day comes, remember who is responsible – God. Do not think you did this all yourself.

Another conversation this week was about people not caring about church. I wondered if it had to do with we are so rich, that we don’t think God matters? In the midst of prosperity, Moses suggests that people tend to forget the disciplines and the values and the faith that helped to make them prosperous in the first place. In today’s world of prosperity, we see many people, especially the younger generation, become bored with their easy lives—and become prey to any number of temptations—drugs, alcohol, promiscuous sex, the list goes on and on. In the midst of prosperity, people are inclined to forget God. The biggest crime is that parents do

not prepare their children with those disciplines, with those values and faith that can help them to be prosperous.

We as the older generation may be the first in our family to receive an inheritance from our parents. Yet we too, have worked hard and achieved much. Is it because we have pulled ourselves up by our bootstraps? Yet how are we setting up our children and grandchildren giving them whatever they need with no connection to how or where the money comes from. Most of our children will rely on us for the rest of their lives. We see it all the time in the community, maybe even in our own families.

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, Moses and Jesus are telling us to remember and give praise to the one who has helped you or healed you. We are to count our blessings and remember where our blessings have come from.

As Jesus enters a village, ten lepers approach calling out to him but keeping their distance because they are unclean. They address him as master, a term used in every other instance in Luke by the disciples. Jesus immediately sends them to show themselves to the priests to confirm their healing, and en route they are in fact made clean.

After the healing of the ten lepers, only one of the ten, turns back glorifying God and thanking Jesus, by bowing down before him. It is only after the one thanks Jesus that we learn he is a Samaritan. A Samaritan, for us today, is someone who is outside our congregation, our church, maybe even our faith tradition. That person is the one who is so thankful.

Think of those churches who serve Thanksgiving Meals today or tomorrow for free. Many of those who come and enjoy, may be like those nine lepers who did not return – for many different reasons. But the ones who do offer their thanks, to anyone who will listen or maybe in a prayer to God, appreciate that someone offered them a meal on this day. Again, their reason could be from many different life circumstances.

Samaritans were not the respectable religious people to the Jewish followers. Jesus' response to the Samaritan is, “. . . your faith has made you well”. This Samaritan recognizes that God is at work. Maybe he even understand who Jesus is; God's son. He does know thanking Jesus is glorifying God. Jesus confirms this when he says, “Your faith has made you well”.

There is no doubt something to be understood here about the people who live on the margins of our communities, who are treated as invisible or unlovely because of how they look or who they are or where they come from. Jesus clearly notices them. Jesus loves them and Jesus calls us to do the same. Let us give thanks for the blessing God gives to us, and let us remember We are not alone. God is with us. Thanks be to God!

**Reflection Hymn: VU 227 “For the Fruit of All Creation”**

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God. \*\*

**Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** Thank You for your gifts, of time, talent, skills, prayers and money. All of these gifts added together, makes us the Church. We as givers are so blessed we can give. May those who receive - also know they are blessed. Thank you for being the church!

**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:** Generous and loving God, we bring you these gifts as a sign of our love poured out for you. We share these gifts because you have shared so much with us. Take and bless these offerings for the building of your kingdom. May they spread your love to those who need it; may they help shine a light where there are shadows. Amen.

**Chorus to Prayer: VU 291 "All Things Bright..."** Chorus

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.*

**Pastoral Prayer:**

**Closing Hymn: VU 706 "Give Thanks for Life"**

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

And for our own, our living and our dead,  
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time or death or dread,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain  
lying in darkness does its life retain  
in resurrection to grow green again,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! \*\*

**Benediction:**

**Eric:** We are called to share God's many gifts with the wider community. Let us always be grateful and **share God's love with others, now and forever more.**

**Closing Hymn: "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 – as “In the Spirit We Are One”.

**Cancer:**

**Carol  
Susan  
Barb  
Margie  
Jerry**

**Larry  
Ken  
Natalie  
Joan  
Rick**

**Janet**

**David  
Dave**

**Elizabeth  
Alice  
Mike and Janice  
John and Barb  
David  
Lloyd  
Don  
Shanks Family  
Seney Family  
Mifflin Family (Gavin)**