

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Pardoville Union Cemetery Service – July 11th, 2021

Prelude Slide Show: “O Master Let Me Walk With Thee” – Christie Coatsworth

Welcome: By Pardoville Union Cemetery Board Chair – Mary Depuydt

Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome to the Pardoville Union Cemetery Decoration Day Service as we gather to honour those interned here. We have shared love, life and memories with those who have gone before us. We hope today’s service offers a time to connect with them as they share in God’s presence.

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

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

Call to Worship:

Eric: From the dawn of creation,

People: **God has called us by name.**

Eric: From before we are born,

People: **we are loved as God’s own.**

Eric: In the moments of joy,

People: **we are given God’s presence.**

Eric: In the seasons of struggle,

People: **God lavishes us with grace.**

Eric: In this sacred space here at Pardoville Union Cemetery,

People: **we are brought together as God’s people.**

Eric: Here in this sacred space, as we come to honour those gone before us,

People: **we are marked with God’s Spirit.**

Eric: In the presence of the Holy Spirit, we connect with each other,

People: **knowing we are not alone.**

Eric: Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer:

Redeeming and Adopting God, you have welcomed us as your people and given us the privilege of being your beloved children. As we gather to worship you here at Pardoville Union Cemetery, we give thanks that you adopted our loved ones into your very presence. Give to us pure hearts to worship you fully, in the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 3 - 14 “Reading Someone Else’s Mail”

Many scholars assume the author of this letter was someone other than the apostle Paul, although it still appears to convey his thoughts and theology. For the flow of this story, we have used the name "Paul."

Have you ever received a letter in the mail, or maybe a birthday card? It is so much fun to go to the mail- box and reach in to pull out a handful of envelopes. When you realize one is written to you, there is so much joy! It is even better when the note is sent to you by one of your favourite people. I wonder if that is how the people in Ephesus felt when they received their letter from one of the early church leaders.

Our scripture today is from a letter to the churches in Ephesus and surrounding area. This letter was meant to be read out loud to everyone that could hear it. The message wasn't just a check-in – a "how are you doing"– letter; no, it was a letter about God.

The letter was written by Paul, who had some amazing things to tell them. This letter told that even before time began God loved all people, no matter who they were. This was important for the people in Bible times to hear; rumours were going around that God only loved the Jews enough to include them in God's family. This was hurtful to the people in Ephesus because most of them were not Jewish but were Gentiles. When Paul told them that God loved them, it was extra special. Paul compared it to adoption. Adoption is when someone becomes part of your family; they even change their names to be like your last name. The letter told that through Jesus, these early Christians were adopted in God's family. How amazing is that?

Here is something amazing, this letter to the Ephesians is for us, too. It might seem like we are reading someone else's mail and that it isn't meant for us, but it *is* meant for us! It is included in the Bible because God wants us to know that we are part of God's family, too.

I am so thankful, and I hope you are too!

Slide Show: "The Lord's My Shepherd"

Message: "Beloved and Grace-filled Children"

Today we are talking about grace. God's abundant grace for us God's beloved and grace-filled children. It is because of God's grace that we can gather together today, trusting that life does not end in our earthly death, and because of God's grace in Jesus Christ, we live an eternal life in the presence of our Creator.

In the letter to the Ephesians, written in the name of Paul, and many think the letter was meant to be read aloud, as a sermon. Ephesians helps us to understand that we are God's chosen people and that God's grace extends to all people in all times, including us in the 21st century. Paul uses the metaphor of adoption to help us understand the extent to which God cares for humanity. Adoption, now and two thousand years ago, gives us the indication a person's inclusion into a new family. That inclusion is in name, in loyalty, and with inheritance.

Adoption in the family of God includes an inheritance of eternal life with God. This would have been particularly significant to the first-century church folks, as they were considered to be Gentiles. Gentiles were considered outside the Jewish faith and therefore the family of God. Yet this letter to the Ephesians emphasizes

that God has included all people since the beginning of time. Do we believe we are included as God's children?

For many of us in the 21st century, it is harder for us to believe than it was for the generations before us. We have been so blessed in our lifetime. We have not experienced World Wars, or famine. The worst we have experienced as a community is COVID. Although COVID restricts some of those things we can do – it does not mean gas and sugar rations – or that we each need to plant a garden to get fresh vegetables. In the last few months, we as the community are being asked to do our part and get vaccinated, to help end the spread of COVID and wipe this COVID virus off the earth.

It may just be by God's grace that we have not experienced COVID personally. Yet if we think about those buried here at Pardoville Union Cemetery – how many have been stricken with Tuberculosis, Small Pox, Spanish Flu and yes, maybe even COVID? Many of these very causes of death are no longer a threat to our health in the 21st century because of vaccinations, and because of community involvement to keep each other safe.

Today we come to honour those who have died and are laid to rest here at Pardoville Union Cemetery. For each of us who are honouring them today, we give thanks for God's Grace in their very lives. We may have had the opportunity to share with them in those last few days here on earth. As we do lament that they will physically not be with us through family and community celebrations, we hear so many stories about how their presence is still felt among us. That, I believe is God's grace to God's adopted children – you and I.

We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 266 "Amazing Grace"

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;

'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: In our attempts to keep these grounds looking fantastic each year, the Pardoville Union Cemetery Board relies on your donations to help cover the costs. Feel free to mail your donations to "Pardoville Union Cemetery" c/o Lisa Sykes, 7343 Fifteenth Line, Merlin ON N0P 1W0. Let us now 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: Gracious and generous God, we bring these gifts before you with joy and gratitude. Help them be distributed and used for the work of Pardoville Union Cemetery and for your church for the outreach of your Kingdom - so that we all may know we are your beloved grace-filled children. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Gracious and faithful God, you created all that we see and beyond.

People: You carve the mountains and craft the canyons, you gather the storm clouds with rain and filled the oceans to the brim.

Eric: You made the universe as an extension of your love and invited us to respond to it with praise to you.

People: Within the vastness of the world, you still know the very hairs on our head and the concerns in our hearts.

Eric: We lift those concerns to you today.

People: We pray for those who are sick, in pain, searching for a diagnosis, and those who are nearing death. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eric: We pray for those who are out of work, unable to earn enough to feed their families and those whose source of income is a source of anxiety or frustration. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People: We pray for those who feel in deep valleys, those facing depression, mental illness, anxiety, and those journeying through grief and loss. We pray for those who have interned a loved one in Pardoville Union Cemetery, this past year. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eric: We pray for those who are uncertain about their future, those in the middle of conflict and burdened by oppression, and those losing hope for justice. May folks find serenity here at Pardoville Union Cemetery. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People: We pray for those who feel lost, alone, afraid and at the end of their rope. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eric: And, we pray for Pardoville Union Cemetery, for ourselves, for our families, our friends, our church, and our country. Lord, hear our prayer, 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: As we leave this sacred space of Pardoville Union Cemetery, may we go, knowing we are God's beloved: we are God's grace-filled children. Let us go to serve God and our neighbours, 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 Slide Show: "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" – 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:	Karen	Becky	Margaret
	Jasmine	Earl	Jerry
	Tom	Barry/ Marsha	Carol
	George	Glen	Carlie (14 th)
	Cindy & Connie	Billy	Residential
	Lynn	Leone	Schools
	Jan	Francine	John
	Len	Melissa	(Motorcycle)
	Brenda	Paul	
	Adam	London's	
	Ingrid	Muslim Community	
	Betty	Dorothy	
Special: Susan		Jennette	
Zoe		Brian	