

# **South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges**

***Nineteenth after Pentecost – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

**Prelude:** Debi Guy and Joe Simpson - “What a Wonderful World”

## **Welcome & Announcements:**

This morning is the Merlin Firefighter’s Breakfast until 1 pm - for a freewill offering.

This afternoon is a Celebration of Music at Dawn Valley United Church.

Next Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, is St. Luke’s 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Service. Lunch to follow!

St. Andrew’s Broasted Chicken Dinner Take Out! – Next Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6 pm. We will need to know numbers today!

SBPC Official Board Meeting is Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7 pm at St. Luke’s.

Talbot Street Church Board meets on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 pm. You are welcome to join by Zoom or telephone.

Reminder of the Chatham Kent Recycling application for Zoning bylaw changes – this Wednesday night from 6 to 7 pm at the Merlin Community Hall.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - [Talbotstreet.ca](http://Talbotstreet.ca) and [Southbuxton.ca](http://Southbuxton.ca).

Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

## **Video from last Sunday at North Buxton.**

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

### **Call to Worship:**

**People:** God, maker of plants and animals and all things, invites us to this place, and we are glad to be here.

**Eric:** God, who has created all things for our goodness, invites us to this place, and we are glad to be here.

**People:** God, who has called us to care for Earth and all its inhabitants, invites us to this place, and we are glad to be here.

**Eric:** Come, let us worship God!

### **Opening Hymn:** VU 217 “All Creatures of Our God...”

1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing:

hallelujah, hallelujah!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,  
soft shining moon with silver gleam,  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,  
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;  
O lights of evening, find a voice:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day  
brings forth rich blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,  
let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4 And everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and yield up all your care:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5 Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

### **Opening Prayer:**

**People: Creator God, we are awed by the creation you have made – the plants and animals (including humans) that you have placed within this world. In this time of worship, may we be aware of your great Creation, and of all created things. Amen.**

## **Children's Story:**

### **Children's Hymn: VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth"**

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,  
    God of all, to you we raise  
    this our hymn of grateful praise.
- 2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light,  
    God of all, to you we raise  
    this our hymn of grateful praise.
- 3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
    God of all, to you we raise  
    this our hymn of grateful praise.
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
    God of all, to you we raise  
    this our hymn of grateful praise.

### **Scripture: Psalm 104: 14 - 23**

**You let the earth produce grass for cattle, plants for our food, wine to cheer us up, olive oil for our skin, and grain for our health. Our Lord, your trees always have water, and so do the cedars you planted in Lebanon. Birds nest in those trees, and storks make their home in the fir trees. Wild goats find a home in the tall mountains, and small animals can hide between the rocks. You created the moon to tell us the seasons. The sun knows when to set, and you made the darkness, so the animals in the forest could come out at night. Lions roar as they hunt for the food you provide. But when morning comes, they return to their dens, then we go out to work until the end of day.**

### **Reflection: "Thanking God for Creation"**

We as humans, stand in awe of how everything connects through the webs of life. Through nature and science, we are learning so much about how we are all interconnected. I read an article last year that showed if you plant trees tightly together in a small space; they grow faster and healthier, as the trees grow and rely on each other like a community. Much of this might be news to us, but many of our First Nations folks have been telling us this for years. May we as the community, enjoy those communities of nature that surrounds us. May we enjoy the world with honour and respect.

Native American Chief Seattle said, “All things share the same breath – the beast, the tree, the man. The air shares its spirit with all the life it supports.” This truth reminds us that we are interconnected.

Today’s Psalm is an unbridled and unconditional hymn of praise to our Creator God. We praise God for what we learn from Creation. We are part of that Creation, part of this incredible world. Each element of Earth is blessed by God and blesses another part of Creation. We see the interconnectiveness in God’s wonderful creation. Grass is grown for the cattle. Grapes ripen for the wine to gladden human hearts. Water flows abundantly for the trees, which offer their branches for the birds to nest. Mountains and rocks give refuge to goats and small animals. We would call it an ecosystem of grand portions.

The psalm presents a picture of God sheltering Creation and tending to each creature’s unique needs and gifts. Yet this is not a utopia of eternal life. There are predators and prey. Just as the sun has a time for setting, lions must seek “their food.” Human labour is bound to the daytime while the night belongs to nocturnal hunters. There is enough food, space, and time for everything, and we praise God for that!

Our Rural Communities are also a gift from God as we are intertwined at so many levels. The Rural Church has become an important part of that special community. Usually as Rural Churches we are part of a smaller community, surrounded by large cities within a couple of hours of driving. Many of our Rural Churches have closed or are closing. Fourth Line has sold their building and the congregation will be holding their final worship service at the Blenheim Senior’s Centre on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The Ridge Community Church on Mull Road has amalgamated with their Sister Church, New Scotland United. Many of our local town churches are with part-time clergy; Tilbury, Blenheim and Merlin. Our Rural Churches are changing, even closing because of changing rural demographics. What do we do?

Even in Rural Communities where churches have closed there remains a remnant of people who still want to maintain vital spiritual lives. In many ways they feel abandoned by the church and may not be aware of the work being done to try to carry on spiritual nurture in rural areas. Some hang on to Television preachers or columns written by local pastors. The Western Producer (for at least 15 years) had a Column entitled, “Spiritual Vignettes”. The Blenheim Tribute offers a column written by local pastors serving in Rural and small town churches.

Most writers remind us that God hasn’t forgotten us ... and neither has the church. It’s come to that time where we have to envision new ways of supporting each other.... The United Church of Canada provides help in several different ways, yet we have to do the work; the planning, the executing and the asking.

We are taught that Christianity is about “Life, Death and Resurrection”. This is no more evident than in our Rural Churches. The life we remember is no longer the life we are living. We as the Rural Church have had to let things die; such as Sunday School and Youth Groups, as we have a lack of children and youth – we are grandparents, even great grandparents. What about the “Resurrection” part? What have we resurrected? Our sharing agreement with the South Buxton Pastoral Charge and the Talbot Street Pastoral Charge has been a God-Sent to the ability to continue to be the church in our Rural Communities for the past 10 years. We have not jumped to part time ministry because we know and believe that our rural communities need the church, and what the church offers to the wider community. This is very evident in our dinners and special services; such as the Annual Cemetery Services, funerals, and Celebrations of Life Services.

Rural Churches believe that we (as Rural Churches) are called to raise our rural voices for the good of all. Rural Churches are often seen as being small and invisible, and even as dying in a time when some denominations are committed to the urban and large. Yet “we know” our journeys have value and theological significance. Jesus spoke of seeds needing to fall into the ground and die before new life could grow. He asks us: ‘What part of you is willing to die? What are you willing to let go, so that new life can come?’”

There is a saying of praise, “God, it’s good to be alive. That’s what death teaches us!” Hope comes when we understand the significance of Life, Death and Resurrection and what that means for our rural ministry. What we need to remember and believe is that, “By the grace of God, the future calls us forward”.

We move forward knowing that, “Our strength is in knowing we exist for the community, and the community values our existence.”

We also believe that rural church ministry is a “Specialized Ministry”, as we better understand the way rural spiritual values have enabled us to survive and move forward in the face of incredible challenges and changes. We have gone through so much, done so much, endured so much – yet we are still here as the Church in our Rural Community.

Today’s Psalm reminds us how nature, the world and us – all animals and humans - rely on each other. None of us can do it alone. Our Rural Communities cannot thrive without the Rural Church. How will we work together and with God for our “Resurrected” future? Our Rural Communities are full of shared lives, relationships and experiences. Our Rural Communities are rich with diversity. We are connected.

Our Rural Communities are totally intertwined with God’s wonderful creation. We are connected - with each other and with God. We are called to recognize that we depend on each other as humans and as Creation. Together we can move forward – from Life to Death to Resurrection. It is up to us to take that journey. Are you willing?

The Psalm offers praise to God for all of Creation, including humans. Jesus’ life on earth reminds us of our faith journeys of Life, Death and Resurrection. As we offer praise to God today for our Rural Churches, we pray that God will walk with us, from here to there. God is active in our lives. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!
- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

### **Invitation to Share Our Gifts:**

**Eric:** The Holy Spirit leads us to be the Church, and to give to be the Church in our community. Let us give and be 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.

### **Music: Joe Simpson: “Give Thanks”**

### **Offertory Prayer:**

**People:** Gracious God, when you created the world, you dedicated us to be part of the balance of all good things. Today, we commit ourselves anew to this purpose and ask your blessing upon our renewed commitment. Help us to continue to delight in the glory of the plants and animals you have given us to share life. And lead us in the ways of life, in communion with all Creation. Amen.

### **Invitation to Prayer: 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:**

### **Closing Hymn: VU 409 “Morning Has Broken”**

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

**Music: Joe Simpson: "Precious Lord"**

**Blessing:**

**Eric:** May the God who frees the hawk to soar, who waters the tree to shelter the bird, who clothes the grass with lilies, open your spirit to the wisdom and joy abundant in Creation, 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: Debi Guy**

**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**

**Martin and Family**

**Charlene and Family**



