

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Grandparent's Sunday – September 12th, 2021

Prelude: “All You Need Is Love” – by Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

This afternoon is an open house for Don Maris' 90th Birthday. The Open House will be from 2 to 4 pm in the pavilion at the Kinsmen Park. Donations will be accepted to help the Christmas Shoe Box Program. You can park at the Merlin United Church and walk through the fence another 100 yards to the pavilion. Everyone is welcome.

Our local Food Banks are getting ready to send kids back to school and are short of school appropriate snacks. You are welcome to make a cash donation to your church to be forwarded. St. Luke's is matching donations received, and Becky Preston has offered to purchase and deliver snacks to Merlin, Wheatley and Blenheim Food Banks.

Upcoming Board Meetings; this Wednesday night, September 15th will be the South Buxton Official Board Meeting – in person at St. Luke's at 7 pm. Talbot Street Official Board Meeting will be Thursday September 16th at 2 pm – in person at Talbot Street.

St. Luke's Beef Supper Take Out is this Saturday September 18th from 5 to 6 pm. Cost is \$25 – call Marjorie 676-5461 or Susan 676-4042.

St. Luke's 120th Anniversary Service is next Sunday September 19th. The service will be online.

Please vote in our upcoming Federal Election on Monday September 20th. You can access the Advanced Polls this weekend and for the next few days – check your voting card you received in the mail.

The Chatham Kent Alzheimer Society is hosting a series of online Zoom Fall workshops – Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Also check out their Tuesday Talks – by Zoom last Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 pm.

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

Thank you to my production crew; music by Christie Coatsworth, and the slides by Tracey Major. You make all the difference.

Slide Show of Grandparent's:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: Praise for tree, star, and ocean. God's wonderful creation.

People: Praise for child, teen, adult, and elder. God's wonderful creation.

Eric: Praise for sun, snow, and rain. God's wonderful creation.

People: Praise for creatures finned, winged, and hooped. God's wonderful creation.

Eric: Praise for cell, molecule, and atom.

People: Praise for all of God's wonderful creation.

Eric: Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, you have shaped us in your likeness. You have formed us as part of creation. Your love is our ongoing inheritance. May our living reflect these holy gifts. This we pray, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 291 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (Video)

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

- 1 Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their tiny wings.
*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.*
- 2 The purpleheaded mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky;
*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.*
- 3 The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.
*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.*
- 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker, who has made all things well.
*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.*

Scripture: Genesis 1: 26 - 28 "Made from Love for Love" - by Brian and Kathy Authier

After Creator God created light and sky, oceans and land, plants and trees, lights for the day and the night, creatures to fill the water and the sky and the earth, God said, "Let's have humankind, made of my (our) own essence. They'll care for the creatures in the water and the sky and on the earth, and be cared for by these same ones, sharing together this life banquet."

And so it was. The Creator gave them genders, unique bodies, diverse personalities, and all with one spirit. Seeing the beauty of their souls was like looking in a mirror. The Creator blessed them, and said, “Fill this world with life, as I have filled you with life. Love your brothers and sisters, every creature and plant. You were made from love and for love. May love be your being and your doing.

Message: “God’s Wonderful Creation”

This Sunday we remember our own creation as humans. The scriptures say we were made in God’s image. Therefore in knowing ourselves better - we can know God more fully. God also created us in God’s image, to care and be responsible for all creation. Today as we see the beauty all around, may we also see the beauty within us. May God help us to embrace our God like ways and help us to remember our kinship with all of God’s wonderful creation.

The Creation story continues from last week and on the sixth Day, God creates humans – in God’s very image. As God is creating, God spells out our human responsibilities, and introduces the metaphor of “seeing the beauty of your soul by looking in a mirror”. This metaphor suggests the relationship of Creator to human and human to Creator. Humans are the first and only creatures described as having divine characteristics. “You are made from love and for love. May love be your being and your doing.”

This is a very lofty obligation for us humans. Yes, we are made from love, and we are made for love. Many humans forget they are loved by God, and that God created them in their Mother’s womb. Yet I think many more of us forget we are also made to love. This may be the biggest responsibility required of us - as faithful Christians – to make our being “love”, and to make our doing “love”. This one sentence packs a lot of meaning.

Let’s step back to the writing of this text, thought to be during the Babylonian exile, about 600 years before Christ. Up to this point the Israelites avoided any image for God. Yet here in Genesis 1, at the creation of the earth and everything else, the writers offer us a living image. The role of the human made in God’s image is to mirror God to the world and to care as God cares. That’s our job!

Humans are given the power to take up God-given responsibilities. This means being in relationship in Creation, and relating in the world as God would. This also means to create ourselves with God by being “fruitful and multiply”. During the time of exile, it was important to populate the Earth. Many children and adults died early. The more children you have, the better the odds of your family surviving.

Actually all animals and plants are all about repopulation. When we were in Africa in 2014, we seen several displays of elephants, hippos and other wild life staging for dominance, as the dominant male created dominant off spring – therefore giving them a better chance of survival. Plants have their own way of protection, whether it is thorns that prick or a strong smell or even poisonous parts of the plant. Usually the fruit of most plants are desirable to birds and animals that eat them, and then deposit the seeds somewhere else as they naturally relieve themselves. In God’s wonderful creation, so many things happen that we take for granted, yet the world continues to flourish because of God’s wonderful creation.

The question we should ask ourselves today as we understand we are made in the image of God is, “How do you see God in you when you look in the mirror?” Do you see God in you as one who dominates, or one who serves, or do you see something else?

This text today has been used to justify our human efforts to harness nature, exploit creation, and bring Earth under human control. ” It is true that in doing many of these things we live a very comfortable life, when we harness river falls to create electricity. We use wind and solar to harness electricity. We use technology to extract oil from the earth – oil and gas that heats our home, fuels our cars, and allows us to fly anywhere in the world by air. It is truly a balancing act of what is useful and what suffers. Even in Adam’s day, if they were to cook or have heat, it required burning some type of plant or tree.

This summer being so hot and dry, especially in the west of Canada and the United States, forest fires rage through the trees gobbling up acres after acres of forest and whatever else is there including houses and cottages.

In August, we were in Meadow Lake Provincial Park, which by its very creation is to preserve nature. The pamphlet shares how the park vegetation has matured over the past 60 years since the Park was created. Forest fires are quickly extinguished, and all logging was restricted to zero for many years. The Park is opening up logging in selective areas to help the vegetation age become younger. If this does not happen, in another 30 years the Park will be a forest of old fallen down trees. Eventually new trees will grow up in another 40 or 50 years, but that’s not the idea of preserving nature. Some pruning and safe scheduled burns need to happen for the forest to stay healthy. We humans need to mimic nature, to preserve nature like God does.

Yet we as humans spend so much time working against the growth of weeds in our lawns and gardens, redirecting water flow off our fields, and sweep the dirt out of our houses. These tasks can exhaust us as we try to maintain control over the environment. Conversely, the tasks can be a daily reminder that we live with a growing, living creation. We are all part of God's wonderful Creation. We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 229 "God of the Sparrow" – Video

- 1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise
- 2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save
- 3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks
- 4 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home.
- 5 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: We as the church are a necessity to the wider community that we serve. We give - to help those who need God's help. Let us 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: Merciful God, your love and grace sustain us day by day. May we offer these gifts with gratitude, and offer our own gifts with the generosity you have shown to us. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: This morning's Prayer is also in video - with the following words:

Eric: For the gift of air, home to dragonfly and sparrow; made oxygen-rich by tall standing trees; necessary for breath – We give thanks, O God.

People: For the gift of water, home to plankton and trout; sculpting valleys and coastlines; necessary for life – We give thanks, O God.

Eric: For the gift of plants, home to caterpillar and koala; recycling into rich soil; necessary for food – We give thanks, O God.

People: Where these gifts are harmed by debris and pollution, by climate change, by destruction of habitat, by corruption and greed – We pray for healing, O God.

Eric: Where these gifts are harmed and decisions are needed from all with power to make new choices – We pray for the will to choose wisely, O God.

People: This gift of interdependence, woven into every part of creation, tells us we cannot stand apart from all we share with Earth.

Eric: Holy God, guide us as we seek to tread gently on Earth, and live in harmony with all.

People: Holy God, guide us 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: May the God who formed the singing cricket bring us peace.

May the God who formed the rushing wave grant us strength.

May the God who formed the graceful eagle grant us wisdom.

May the God whose image we reflect bless and guide us, 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: “Lost Without Your Love” – 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
Zoe
Becky
Barry/ Marsha
Francine
Rick
Alison
Adrein
Earl’s Family
Bob
Betty
Ingrid
Adam
Audrey and the Dawson Family
Tracy